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HALIFAX • WEEKEND, NOVEMBER 20-22, 2009



Local

pg 5

Canada Games gone to dogs

Flu vaccine decision day

Flu Outbreak

SHOTS Nova Scotia's chief public health officer says he will decide Friday when to extend immunizations against swine flu to the general public.

Robert Strang says he is talking with officials at the district health authorities about how they would vaccinate everyone who wanted a shot.

Manitoba started supplying the H1N1 vaccine to the general population Thursday, while Ontario plans to begin Friday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3



Children's Rights

Today is the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child by the United Nations. Metro is taking an in-depth look at children's issues.

- UNICEF officials weigh in, pages 8, 13.
- Ryan Ross, right, is eight years old — and almost a millionaire, page 8.



On the web



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each other for the past year.

"The time has come," Nill said. "We're all aware of the subplot but both of us are football coaches, both of us are competitors, and both of us want to win this game."

Glavic called Saturday's game a "clash of the titans." He even suggested it's a bigger game than the 2007 Uteck Bowl, where he quarterbacked the Huskies to a 24-2 upset win over the Laval Rouge et Or before a home crowd of 6,549.

"That was a big game between two big-time teams," Glavic said. "It was probably on the same level, but with all the subplots here ... I'm sure this one will take the cake." **MORE COVERAGE, PAGE 19**

"Two and a half million dollars is significant."

Tony Seed

They also question why \$2.5 million from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is going towards hosting foreign military officials.

"Two and a half million dollars is significant. It's two and a half times the budget of the adult literacy program in Nova Scotia," said Tony Seed of the Halifax Peace Coalition.

ACOA spokesman David Harrigan said it's a good investment to bring people like McCain to the province to attract international attention.

"In order to grow the economy in Nova Scotia investing in something like this makes sense," Harrigan said.

Semi showdown

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Game day

The Uteck Bowl will be played Saturday at 1 p.m. at Huskies Stadium. Tickets can

be purchased by calling 451-1221. The game will be aired on TSN on tape delay at 5 p.m.

resigning from Saint Mary's in 2006 after winning two Vanier Cups. And the star quarterback who left Saint Mary's in January to join Nill in Calgary — Hec Crighton winner Erik Glavic — is coming home, too.

"The excitement of this week's game is everywhere," said Huskies head coach Steve Sumarah, who was none too impressed with his close friend Nill after Glavic departed.

"Everywhere I go, people must think I have rolls of tickets in my pocket. I've got more friends than I've ever had."

During Thursday's "meet the coaches" press conference at The Tower, Nill, Sumarah and Glavic

couldn't escape questions about how Glavic's controversial departure went down. They ultimately downplayed the controversy and said they've been eager to face

Security forum cash draws fire

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The federal government says a \$2.5-million ACOA grant towards this weekend's security forum in Halifax is a good investment. But some peace activists beg to disagree.

Former presidential candidate John McCain and U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates are among the speakers attending the "inaugural" Halifax International Security Forum at the Westin Hotel from Friday through Sunday.

Outside, protesters will be staging demonstrations. They call the forum a "war conference"

with the goal of increasing Canada's military scope.

They also question why \$2.5 million from the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency is going towards hosting foreign military officials.

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Local



MLS home sales up 1.4%: Realtor group

The Nova Scotia Association of Realtors announced Thursday homes sold through the MLS system from August to October are up 1.4 per cent over the same three months in 2008. The association said in a release they've been going through a long period of year-over-year decreases, so this increase is very positive. In Halifax-Dartmouth, homes sales are up 5.4 per cent from August to October (1,588 from 1,506). The price of homes sold in the province dropped by 10 per cent. The cost of homes in Halifax-Dartmouth were down 4.8 per cent.

METRO HALIFAX



Expect delays due to ramp closure

TRAFFIC If you thought driving through the Fairview Overpass was already a headache because of ongoing construction, things will get even worse this weekend.

The Halifax Regional Municipality's Traffic Services said Thursday that because of the province's construction project at the location, the Joseph Howe Drive ramp under the Fairview Overpass will be closed from 7 p.m. Friday to 5 a.m. Monday.

The closure will affect Joseph Howe Drive to the Bedford Highway outbound and the Bedford Highway outbound ramp to Joseph Howe Drive.

Motorists are being asked to find alternate routes while the work takes place.

Work on the overpass began last month. The province is demolishing and rebuilding the south side of the overpass with a price tag of \$5 million.

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WHAT'S ONLINE TODAY

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Registered nurse Patti Melanson shows Health Minister Maureen MacDonald the inside of the Mobile Outreach Street Health van after a celebration at the Brunswick Street United Church Thursday.

Mobile clinic reaching out to patients

MONIQUE MUISE
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HEALTH Natalie Narvey arrived in Halifax about a month ago almost broke, without a place to stay and pregnant.

Living in a building that she said "should have been condemned," the 25-year-old quickly developed health problems and wasn't sure where to go for help.

A few weeks later, Narvey said she's feeling much better — thanks to a new mobile health clinic that provides on-the-spot care to at-risk populations in Halifax.

The Mobile Outreach Street Health (MOSH) program has been making the rounds in the city for a few months, but had its official launch Thursday on Brunswick Street.

"They're a really good

program," Narvey said as she sat among the 200 people who showed up for the event. "They got me set up with doctors for my pregnancy and got me a prenatal blood test. I've been on the streets, but I have a job and I'm trying to work so I can be ready for when my baby comes."

A joint project between the provincial government and several corporate and community organizations, the MOSH van was the brainchild of Diane Bailey and Patti Melanson, two community health advocates who worked closely with patients in Halifax's North End.

The vehicle is equipped with basic supplies and can provide numerous services to clients on the street, including blood work, vaccinations, basic first aid and birth control. MOSH can also foot the bill for certain medications

and connect clients with doctors.

"In this area, we have a pretty concentrated delivery of things like shelter, food and support with housing," said Rick Swaine, a community health nurse who works full-time with MOSH.

A lot of agencies are finding there are some immediate health issues that they're coming across, like someone arriving at the Turning Point (shelter) with a history of asthma ... I see (MOSH) as a wonderful opportunity to get out a little bit further into the community."

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Vaccination to cost \$20M

Ottawa to foot part of N.S. bill

Flu Outbreak

PAUL MCLEOD
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Swine-flu immunization will cost Nova Scotia an estimated \$20 million, Health Minister Maureen MacDonald said Thursday.

But MacDonald cautioned those numbers could fluctuate by the time H1N1 has passed.

Some of that will be covered by the federal government, which will foot 60 per cent of the bill for vaccines.

But that's only a fraction of the total cost, which includes everything from buying masks and ventilators to paying retired nurses to help run vaccine clinics.

There's been no federal commitment to chip in for those costs, but MacDonald said there is "a willingness to talk more."

She said either way the province will help district health authorities that are now facing deficits over H1N1 costs.

"We've set money aside for this pandemic," MacDonald said. "We did not want the lack of financial resources to impede health care at a very important time."

"We know there are additional costs there and we will be looking at sharing those costs with the

DHAs."

The province set aside \$57 million in its budget for a contingency fund, which includes swine-flu costs.

The province's chief medical health officer, Dr. Robert Strang, will announce Friday when vaccine clinics will be open to the general public. MacDonald said seniors are of particular concern.

"We're very mindful that we haven't gotten to seniors over the age of 65 and they've waited very patiently," MacDonald said.

"We know that people over 65 are actually the least likely to get H1N1. However, if they do contract it, they have quite a high risk."

Spring Garden Area's Quick Facts



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Text, email to be added on bully hotline

POLICING Halifax Regional Police announced Thursday it was expanding its bully hotline to include email and text capabilities.

Working in partnership with Bell Aliant, police say anyone needing advice or to talk about bullying issues can call 490-7283, plus now text 233-7283 (SAVE) or email bullyhotline@halifax.ca.

The hotline was established in 1999 as a resource for kids, parents and teachers faced with bullying issues. A HRP school response officer answers it 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily.

"The bully hotline is used countless times throughout the year and has received thousands of calls over the last decade," HRP's Public Safety Officer Supt. Don Spicer said in a release. "We are pleased to mark the 10th anniversary by adding features that make the bully hotline more accessible, particularly to our youth."

METRO HALIFAX

Council wants child strategy

KIDS' RIGHTS The Nova Scotia Council For Early Childhood Development is calling on the province to create an early childhood development strategy for children from birth to age 6.

The declaration came this week in recognition of National Child's Day, which is Friday, and the 20th anniversary of the Convention on the Right of the Child. In a release, the council said it was up to Nova Scotia Premier Darrell Dexter to follow the practices of provinces such as Ontario in early childhood development.

METRO HALIFAX

A former teacher has been sentenced to two weeks in jail after child pornography was found on his computer. Jim Wadden, 67, of Westville was sentenced in New Glasgow provincial court to the mandatory minimum set out by Parliament — 14 days in jail followed by 18 months of probation. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Ex-teacher gets two weeks in jail for kiddie porn

Steele hints at HST rule change

Minister says N.S. will likely no longer need another province's OK to hike tax rate

PAUL MCLEOD
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ham Steele said Thursday to reporters following its weekly cabinet meeting.

"Under the existing agreement ... at least one of the other Atlantic provinces would have to agree with it," Steele said.

"But as I said, we don't expect that to be the rules at the time the next budget is delivered."

Ontario just finished working out a new HST deal with the government Nova Scotia can't make that move unilaterally, Finance Minister Gra-

"We know the regime is changing. What I don't know, because it's happening right now, is exactly what the new rules will be." Finance Minister Graham Steele

Steele said the outcome of those deals will affect what happens to Nova Scotia.

"We can basically pick and choose the best available rules," he said.

"We know the regime is changing. What I don't know, because it's happen-

ing right now, is exactly what the new rules will be."

Steels said adding two percentage points to the HST would bring in about \$250 million per year. The economic panel advised the move as a way for the

province to combat crushing deficits.

Steele said his department only began looking at that step after last Friday's report. He said the province hasn't decided if or when a hike would take place, or what could be exempted.

"I absolutely don't want anybody to think that we've made the decisions on these things on amount and timing and we're just not telling anybody," he said.

Tall ship This barque has bite



RYAN RAPIN/METRO HALIFAX

Sailors on the Norwegian tall ship Statsraad Lehmkuhl scale down the ropes after manning the mast for their arrival in Halifax on Thursday. The ship, which is the world's largest three-masted barque, is visiting Nova Scotia as part of its annual Transatlantic sail training voyage for the first time. The ship is open to the public Saturday and Sunday from noon until 4 p.m.

Man hits head on rock after tumble

PHILIP CROUCHER
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INJURY A man working at a Bedford construction site suffered a serious head injury when he fell off the roof of a home and hit his head on a rock mid-Thursday morning.

Paul Maynard of Emergency Health Services said they were called at 9:42 a.m. to the site of the home being built on Sentry Court in the Larry Uteck subdivision and rushed the man in his late 20s to the QEII Health Sciences Centre in Halifax.

Maynard listed the man's condition as serious when contacted Thursday afternoon. The man suffered a serious head injury

"I was certainly life-threatening injuries from the fall," said Maynard, estimating he fell about 20 feet to the ground.

Ambulance, fire and police all arrived to the scene of the accident. Const. Brian Palmeter of the Halifax Regional Police said they're considering the fall a workplace accident.

The provincial Department of Labour is now investigating the incident and were on site Thursday.

Three youths face robbery rap

CRIME Police say three young offenders are each facing charges of armed robbery after the Subway in Coldbrook was held up late Wednesday night.

Nova Scotia RCMP say at about 11:20 p.m., they received a 911 call about an armed robbery at the restaurant.

Police say a lone male entered the business sporting a weapon and left with an undisclosed amount of

money.

While responding to the robbery, Kentville police checked a suspicious vehicle on a different matter that the RCMP say resulted in the arrest of two youths.

A third youth was arrested a short time later, police add.

The three youths were to appear in Kentville court Thursday to face the armed robbery charges.

METRO HALIFAX

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Six arrested for weapons and explosives

Six people have been arrested and charged with possession of weapons and explosives by Cape Breton Regional Police. **CAPE BRETON POST**



Sammi, one of the two new mascots for the Halifax 2011 Canada Games, shakes paws with kids at École Beaubassin on Thursday.

Canada Games mascots unveiled

School kids chose Anni, Sammi as names

AMY BOND
for Metro Halifax

Kids crowded into a Bedford school cafeteria Thursday morning in anticipation of the unveiling of the mascots for the 2011 Canada Winter Games.

A few minutes later, Anni and Sammi — two Nova Scotia duck tolling retrievers — were introduced at École Beaubassin as the official mascots of the Games set for Halifax in February of 2011.

Sammi — short for Samuel — sports a blue Canada Games sweater, hat, and sneakers while Anni — short for Angélique — is dressed in a blue vest, scarf, boots and ski goggles.

The brother and sister duo were named by stu-

tents from École Beaubassin and École Boisjolie in Dartmouth. Games officials say they were given names that work in either French or English to capture the bilingual nature of the event.

"From now on whenever you see our mascots running around town, you'll immediately think about the Halifax 2011 Games," Jean-Paul Deveau, the Games chairman, told the crowd before the mascots came out. "People will remember our mascots long after the Games are over."

Anni and Sammi will attend Canada Games celebrations and events across the province to help build spirit for the event. The cost to design and deliver the mascots was \$25,000. It will cost an additional \$8,000 to clean and transport them.

If Thursday was any indication the mascots should be a big hit — at least with children. When they arrived, the kids ran up to them from all angles, hugging them and putting their hands out for high fives.

"In a few short years, some of you may be ready to try out for the Canada Games," Deveau told the roughly 100 elementary students.

The 2011 Canada Winter Games takes place Feb. 11 to 27 and will be the largest multi-sport event in Halifax's history.

Learn more

- Kids can learn more about the new Canada Games mascots at annisammi2011.ca

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6 local

Weekend, November 20-22, 2009
Afghanistan exhibit at airport till Dec. 1
Afghanistan360, a multi-media exhibit on Canada's engagement in Afghanistan
opens Friday at the Halifax Stanfield International Airport. **METRO HALIFAX**

PHOTO BY STEPHEN MUNROE



An artist's rendering of the new development of Fenwick Tower unveiled on Thursday night in Halifax. The developer, Joe Metlege, says the design was created after extensive public consultation.

Project seeks to make Fenwick 'a landmark'

Eyesore's redevelopment still needs council's OK

MONIQUE MUISE
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Design input

Developers unveiled their plans Thursday night for the revitalization of one of Halifax's biggest eyesores.

The public was invited to view the first sketches of the new-and-improved version of Fenwick Place, the now-abandoned 33-storey tower erected in 1971 in the city's south end.

Joe Metlege, a developer with Halifax-based Templeton Properties Ltd., said he was excited to hear the feedback on the plans.

"Over the past number of months we've been working with community residents and businesses to come up with a new design for the site," Metlege said Thursday morning. "I was born and

raised only a block away from the tower. It's part of my neighbourhood ... and the opportunity is there, now, and I believe the city is ready to move forward."

The project still needs to get the approval of Halifax Regional Council, but Metlege said once it is complete, the existing tower will be "unrecognizable." A new glass facade is being planned which will protrude out 36 feet from the

current walls.

In addition to the refurbishment of the main tower, an additional eight-storey residential building is being proposed with ground-level restaurants and boutiques. The current South Street parking lot will also be replaced by another 10-storey building — and a pedestrian walkway lined with restaurants and boutiques will run between that building and the main tower, said Metlege.

"We really want this to become a landmark project," he added.

"It is a long process, I mean we're talking over a year," he said. "At this stage we're getting the big-picture concepts in place ... if we're missing something, we want to know about it now."

Audit slams N.S.-N.L. ferry service

The Crown corporation operating the ferry service that links Nova Scotia with Newfoundland is ineffective, inefficient and plagued with serious problems, the federal auditor general says in a report released Thursday.

The scathing, five-year study by Sheila Fraser's office cites Marine Atlantic Inc. for failing to deal with an aging and unreliable fleet, cost overruns, poor planning and maintenance, blown budgets and con-

Recommendations

- Rob Crosbie, Marine Atlantic Inc. chairman, said the corporation is working hard to clean up its act, having accepted all of the audit's recommendations.

stant service delays during peak travel periods.

"Marine Atlantic has a lot of issues and I think people are aware of that," said Rob Crosbie, the corporation's

chairman. He said management has already implemented many improvements over the past couple of years, including a restructuring process.

Crosbie stressed the corporation has been preoccupied with drafting a 25-year plan, which is now in the hands of Rob Merifield, the federal minister of state for transport. The corporation is looking for about \$1.5 billion for its 25-year plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

STOLEN PROPERTY A 38-year-old man was arrested Thursday for possession of stolen property over \$5,000 in relation to a break-in at a Sears trailer parked in Sydport earlier this

week. The property recovered appeared to be parcels that individuals had ordered for Christmas and were set to receive through Sears. The items included kids' toys, a flat

screen television, and personalized Toronto Maple Leafs' hockey sweaters. The man will appear in court at a later date after being released.

CAPE BRETON POST

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NSCC campuses get environmental certification

NSCC's 13 campuses have each received the Building Owner and Manager's Association BOMA Building Environmental Standards certification — considered the industry standard for environmental management of existing commercial buildings. **METRO HALIFAX**



Bridget Bezanson and Theo Pitsiavas co-star in One Light Theatre's newest production *Return Ticket*: Halifax-Abadan-Halifax, which opens Saturday at Neptune Theatre.

Return Ticket to Iran

Play explores journey home, impact of technology

MONIQUE MUISE

monique.muise@metronews.ca

It was supposed to be a play about the experiences of civilians in a warzone.

Instead, playwright and director Shahin's Sayadi's latest work became an intensely personal piece of theatre that examined his own experiences in a war-torn nation.

Debuting Saturday on Neptune Theatre's Studio Stage, *Return Ticket: Halifax-Abadan-Halifax* chronicles Sayadi's journey back to his hometown of Abadan in southwestern Iran.

Sayadi left for Iran with the intention of writing about his cousin — who had been living amongst bomb blasts and flying bullets for eight years. Eventually, however, he decided to

Tickets

- *Return Ticket: Halifax-Abadan-Halifax* will run on Neptune's Studio Stage from Nov. 21-28.
- Tickets can be purchased at onelighttheatre.com or by calling (902) 425-6812.

shift gears and focus on his own, often painful journey back to his homeland.

"It became inevitable," he said. "(My cousin's) story became my story. I had to go to my birthplace and speak to my family ... it was very difficult."

Throughout the play, the audience is submerged in the sights, sounds and experiences associated with Sayadi's trip and the ripple effect on his wife, Maggie, and their daughter, Azat, back home in Halifax.

While the show is essen-

tially a deeply personal tale about the struggle for survival in the midst of chaos, Sayadi said the play also touches on the impact of modern technology on our daily lives.

"It became very clear to me that we are under constant watch ... through email, Skype, big corporations, Google," he said. "Our way of communicating with our loved ones is at times problematic."

To help convey this to the audience, three massive video screens have been mounted above the stage and will display multi-layered, real-time images of the actors and broadcast them over the Internet during the performances.

"It can be an invasion of personal privacy," Sayadi said. "We needed to show this voyeurism into our lives."

Man's disappearance baffles girlfriend

MISSING Darren Tatlock seemed happy the day he disappeared, according to his pregnant girlfriend.

Candace Poirier-Hanrahan said Tatlock, 29, was behaving normally Nov. 9 before he left his Hudson Street home at about 10:30 a.m. to work on his résumé at the New Waterford Employment Resource Centre.

"He did everything he always does after getting up," said Poirier-Hanrahan. "There was absolutely no clue whatsoever he wasn't going to go up to the em-

ployment centre and do what he said he was going to do."

Poirier-Hanrahan, who has been dating Tatlock for more than five years and is two months pregnant, said his sudden disappearance has been hard on her and their children. The couple has a three-year-old daughter and Tatlock is very close to Poirier-Hanrahan's seven-year-old daughter.

"They know something is wrong. They miss him and ask about him all the time, they want to know when he

is coming home. "I can't even talk," she said, crying softly. "I can barely sleep."

So far, there have been few clues about Tatlock's whereabouts.

Desiree Vassallo, the Cape Breton Regional Police Service's public relations adviser, said police viewed surveillance tape from a local store after someone reported seeing Tatlock, but it was not him. She encouraged people to call with any information they might have.

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Canada



Asthma a risk factor: Research

Researchers at Toronto's Hospital for Sick Children say asthma appears to be a significant risk factor for severe cases of disease in kids who get the pandemic flu virus, compared to seasonal flu. Their new study — the second largest to date on the subject — was published online Thursday by the Canadian Medical Association Journal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tiny 'Trump' is mini-mogul

Ryan Ross has made \$900,000 — and he's only 8 years old

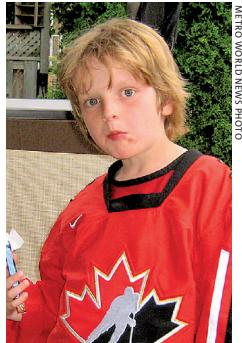
Children's Rights

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

When Ryan Ross was three years old, he started a chicken-and-egg business in his back yard. Today the eight-year-old is on his fourth company — and has already earned close to a million dollars.

"I had 60 chickens and sold a dozen eggs for three dollars," recalls Ryan, who lives near Toronto. "I made \$15 a day."

When he tired of selling eggs, Ryan launched his next venture: a lawn-mowing business. Ryan charged customers \$20 per



Ryan Ross

mother, Savannah Ross.

"It was the same thing with his next company, a power-washing business. We supplied the power-washer; he charged the customer \$200 and paid a person \$100 to do the work. And they're all his ideas. My husband and I are adamant that Ryan has to understand everything he's doing. If I do it for him, it's my company."

All along, Ryan has been investing his profit in real estate.

Today he owns six buildings in Ontario and British Columbia; his personal net worth is \$900,000. Ryan has also bought a hockey rink and basketball court for his family, and some 4,000 books for himself. But no cellphone: his parents

won't allow it.

"His friends in school don't believe he's a businessman," says Savannah. "They think it's baloney."

But Tiny-Trump's ambitions go beyond real estate. "I want to buy two National Hockey League teams," Ryan tells Metro.

"That way I can play in the NHL."

Explains mother Savannah: "Ryan thinks hockey is all fun. But he has to understand the business side, so now we're setting up meetings with NHL owners. They think it's very cute."

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Nigel Fisher

Children's Rights

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Too many children still do not benefit from child development, education, and health care.

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Nigel Fisher is president & CEO of UNICEF Canada. To learn more about UNICEF go to www.unicef.org.

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A Quebec woman on long-term sick leave is fighting to have her benefits reinstated after her employer's insurance company cut them, she says, because of photos of a beach vacation posted on Facebook, CBC News Online reports. Nathalie Blanchard has been off work since she was diagnosed with major depression. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Detainee lessons learned: General

Canada's military task force in Afghanistan learned its lesson several years ago when allegations first surfaced that detainees were being tortured at the hands of local intelligence authorities, the mission's newly appointed commander said Thursday.

Brig.-Gen. Daniel Menard said Canadian forces responded appropriately in 2007 after the allegations first surfaced by implementing more rigorous handover procedures and new safeguards to ensure prisoners could be monitored more effectively once in Afghan custody.

"We have certainly learned our lessons," Menard said after a change of command ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, where he took over the task force from outgoing commander Brig.-Gen. Jonathan Vance.

"One thing that has been done right from the beginning is that every

time that we have heard about anything to do with torture or something that was similar to this, some actions were taken by this task force in order to correct this."

His comments came a day after a federal official dropped a political bombshell on Parliament, alleging that suspects handed

over by Canada to Afghan authorities were tortured and that the government was at best indifferent and at worst tried to cover it up.

The stunning revelation was delivered by Richard Colvin, an intelligence officer based in Washington, who spent 18 months in Afghanistan in the No.

2 diplomatic post.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Richard Colvin is the latest in a string of critics to draw the Tories' wrath. Scan this code or visit metronews.ca for the full article.

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Tories say Colvin has no evidence

TORTURE The Harper government is dismissing calls for a public inquiry into bruising allegations by a federal official that the military handed over Afghan prisoners to face torture.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay told a raucous House of Commons on Thursday that there's no evidence to support the allegations by Richard Colvin, even going so far as to describe the intelligence officer as "a suspect source."

Colvin told a Commons committee a day earlier that prisoners were turned over to Afghanistan's notorious intelligence service by the Canadian military in 2006-07 despite warnings that they would be tortured. He also suggested the federal government may have tried to cover up what was happening.

All three opposition parties attacked the Conservatives and demanded an inquiry, but the Tories were unmoved.

MacKay deflected the demands by saying Colvin had not provided "one scintilla of evidence" that wasn't second- or third-hand information.

He painted Colvin as a Taliban dupe and said Canadians are being asked to accept the word of prisoners

"who throw acid in the face of school children, who blow up buses of civilians in their own country."

He side-stepped questions about how a "dupe" could be promoted by Ottawa to serve as an intelligence officer in Washington, where Colvin now serves.

MacKay insisted the government dealt with the concerns over possible torture by revising the prisoner transfer agreement with Afghanistan in May 2007, but conceded later that the agreement was changed partly because of the warnings Colvin issued while in Afghanistan.

New Democrat MP Paul Dewar said the country's reputation as a champion of human rights has been tarnished.

"Torture is never, ever justified. Mr Colvin's testimony suggests Canada has failed to meet that moral standard. The damage to Canada's reputation could be serious and lasting."

Paul Dewar, NDP MP

"Torture is never, ever justified. Mr Colvin's testimony suggests Canada has failed to meet that moral standard. The damage to Canada's reputation could be serious and lasting."

In his remarks Wednesday, Colvin said he had concerns about the ongoing transfer of prisoners to the Afghan intelligence service.

The NDP also demanded that Canada halt those transfers and negotiate an even better arrangement with the government in Kabul that would put in place even more safeguards to prevent abuse.

Under international law, Ottawa has the responsibility to ensure that prisoners handed over to another nation are not tortured.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Albert Nerenberg, the producer-director behind the documentary "Laughology" is laying the groundwork to bring the World Laughter Games to Toronto next summer. Nerenberg got the idea for the Laughter Games when he was making "Laughology," which looks at why and how people laugh. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Health-care bill to top \$183B: Report

Canada's total health-care bill this year is predicted to reach \$183 billion — or almost \$5,500 for each man, woman and child in the country, says a report released Thursday.

The report by the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) forecasts that spending will rise by \$9.5 billion over last year's

tally, a jump of 2.5 per cent after adjustment for inflation and population growth.

That translates into a year-over-year increase of \$241 per Canadian, says the report by CIHI, which has been tracking health spending since 1975.

"It bounced up and down a little bit from year to year,

Bigger chunk of Canada's GDP

• Increased spending on what arguably is Canadians' most cherished social program occurred despite the economic downturn, leading to health

care in 2009 claiming a larger chunk of the economy — 11.9 per cent of Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) compared to 10.8 per cent in 2008.

but it's roughly in line with what we've seen over the

last five, six years," CIHI's Chris Kuchciak said of the

spending growth rate.

"I guess what we're seeing in our numbers is a reflection that going back over the last 10 years, Canadians have said health care is a high priority," Kuchciak, manager of health expenditures, said from Ottawa. "We've seen government and policy makers looking to address those

needs, so as a result we've seen investments and spending in the health-care sector."

"Relative to the size of our economy, health care is taking up a larger share of our economic output, or economic income," he said. "People still get sick whether there's a recession on or not." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Atlantic premiers, from left, Nova Scotia's Darrell Dexter, P.E.I.'s Robert Ghiz, New Brunswick's Shawn Graham and Newfoundland's Danny Williams pose for a photo before a private dinner to discuss regional energy issues, on Thursday.

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N.B., Newfoundland spar over power deal

ENERGY New Brunswick Premier Shawn Graham says he will try to correct "misinformation" from Newfoundland and Labrador Premier Danny Williams about the proposed sale of NB Power when the two men meet face to face in Labrador.

Graham, Williams and the premiers of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island gathered Thursday evening in Churchill Falls to begin two days of talks on regional energy issues.

"Even though Premier Williams is a good friend, I'm going to correct some of the misinformation that's been presented on this deal," Graham said Thursday after arriving in this remote Labrador community.

"Danny Williams saying we're giving up the future of New Brunswick is totally false. NB Power and New Brunswickers can continue to set energy policy through government."

Williams has vowed to fight the takeover before the federal Competition Bureau and possibly in court. He has often complained about the Churchill Falls agreement struck in 1969, which he says has reaped \$22 billion in revenues for Quebec compared to only \$1 billion for his province.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Speaker blasts Tory over flyers

PARTISAN Conservatives received a slap on the wrist Thursday for misrepresenting an opponent in one of many ultra-partisan flyers the party's MPs have been mailing — at taxpayers' expense — across the country.

The rebuke from Peter Milliken, Speaker of the House of Commons, is not the first Conservatives have received over their use of

MPs' free mailing privileges.

Nor, if Liberals have their way, will it be the last. They lodged another complaint Thursday with the Speaker, alleging their privileges were breached by a Tory flyer that links the Liberals to anti-Semitism.

However, Tory MPs haven't let rebukes in the past stop, or even slow down.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A pair of spacewalking astronauts hustled through antenna and cable work outside the International Space Station on Thursday. Atlantis crewmen Michael Foreman and Dr. Robert Satcher Jr. had a spare antenna installed in just two hours after venturing out on the first spacewalk of their mission. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

News in brief

ALASKA Starry-eyed American children writing letters to the North Pole this holiday season likely won't get a response from Santa Claus or his helpers. The U.S. Postal Service is dropping a popular national

program begun in 1954 in the small Alaska town of North Pole, where volunteers open and respond to thousands of letters addressed to Santa each year. Replies came with North Pole postmarks. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

PAKISTAN A blast late Thursday killed two police officers a day after a suicide bomber killed 19 people outside a courthouse in northwestern Pakistan, near the Afghan border. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



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California Taking it lying down



Students lay down to symbolize the "Death of Public Education," as they protest outside where University of California regents voted on a 32 per cent student fee increase Thursday. DANIEL DONAHE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killed for their fat

Three in Peru confess to slaughtering people, selling body fat

A gang in the remote Peruvian jungle has been killing people for their fat, police charged Thursday, draining it from their corpses and offering it on the black market for use in cosmetics. Medical experts expressed skepticism that a major market for fat might exist.

Three suspects have confessed to killing five people for their fat, said Col. Jorge Mejia, chief of Peru's anti-kidnapping police. He said the suspects, two of whom were arrested carrying bottles of liquid fat, told police it was worth \$15,000 a litre.

Mejia said the suspects told police the fat was sold

Fat black market?

- Medical experts expressed doubt about an international black market for human fat, though it does have cosmetic applications. Yale University dermatology professor Dr. Lisa Donofrio speculated that a small market may exist for "human fat extracts" to keep skin supple, though scientifically such treatments are "pure baloney."

to intermediaries in Lima, the Peruvian capital. While police suspect the fat was sold to cosmetic companies in Europe, he could not con-

firm any sales.

At a news conference, police showed reporters two bottles of fat recovered from the suspects and a photo of the rotting head of a 27-year-old male victim. Suspect Elmer Segundo Castillejos, 29, led police to the head, recovered in a coca-growing valley last month, Mejia said.

Mejia said Castillejos confessed that the gang would cut off its victims' heads, arms and legs, remove the organs, then suspend the torsos from hooks above candles that warmed the flesh as the fat dripped into tubs below.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



We're Recruiting

Northwood is hiring for our new 150-bed long-term care facility in West Bedford. Set to open in Spring of 2010, this building offers a new approach to care. It's also ideal for those in the surrounding community to work closer to home. Positions we're hiring for are:

- > Corporate Director, In Care Living
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- > Manager, Property Maintenance
- > First Cooks
- > Food Service Workers

For more detailed descriptions please contact us by phone at **(902) 454-3369**, hr@nwood.ns.ca or online at www.nwood.ns.ca



Model found dead in Paris

Model Daul Kim was found dead in Paris Thursday morning. The cause of death remains unknown, but a source says the 20-year-old committed suicide. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Lobbying to ban blasphemy

Four years after cartoons of the prophet
Muhammad set off violent protests across the Muslim world, Islamic nations are mounting a campaign for an international treaty to protect religious symbols and beliefs from mockery — essentially a ban on blasphemy that would put them on a collision course with free speech laws in the West.

Documents obtained by The Associated Press show that Algeria and Pakistan have taken the lead in lobbying to eventually bring the proposal to a vote in the UN General Assembly.

If ratified in countries that enshrine freedom of expression as a fundamental right, such a treaty would require them to limit free speech if it risks seriously offending religious believers. The process, though, will take years and no showdown is imminent.

Experts say the bid stands some chance of success if Muslim countries persist. And whatever the outcome, the campaign risks reigniting tensions between Muslims and the West that President Barack Obama has pledged to heal, reviving fears of a "clash of civilizations."

If the treaty was approved, any of the UN's 192 member states that ratified it would be bound by its provisions. Other countries could face criticism for refusing to join. The United States has declared it won't accept international treaties that restrict its First Amendment right to free speech. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

English al-Qaida sites popping up

INTERNET Increasing numbers of English-language websites are spreading al-Qaida's message to Muslims in the West. They translate writings and sermons once largely out of reach of English readers and often feature charismatic clerics like Anwar al-Awlaki, who exchanged dozens of emails with the U.S. army psychiatrist accused of the shootings at the Fort Hood military base in Texas. The U.S.-born al-Awlaki has been an inspiration to several militants arrested in Canada — the Toronto 18 — and the United States, with his web-based sermons often turning up on their computers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

CROCODILES A six-metre-long crocodile with three sets of fangs — or boar-like tusks —

roamed parts of northern Africa millions of years ago, researchers reported Thursday.

Three new species, along with new examples of two previously known ancient crocodiles,

were detailed in Washington by researchers Paul Sereno and

Hans Larsson of McGill University in Montreal.

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The daughter of U.S. Sen. John Kerry was arrested Thursday in Hollywood for allegedly driving drunk, police said. Alexandra Kerry, 36, was stopped by officers just after midnight and booked at the Hollywood police station for investigation of driving under the influence. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Health-care bill faces uncertainty in Senate

After months of haggling, the U.S. Senate finally has a health-care bill ready for action, but there still is no guarantee the Democrat-drafted proposal — President Barack Obama's top domestic agenda item — will be debated in the upper chamber, let alone reach a vote.

The Senate hopes to decide on Saturday whether to move the bill to the floor for debate. The House of Representatives, mean-

while, has already passed its version of reform, leaving forward movement on overhauling the system in the hands of the Senate.

Failure to guide the measure to passage would represent a crippling, if not fatal, blow to a pillar of the basket of domestic reforms Obama promised in his presidential campaign.

While Democrats hold a significant majority in the Senate, its rules allow Republicans to block action

through a delaying tactic known as a filibuster. To end a filibuster, the Democrats must assemble 60 votes. Currently, they hold 58 seats in the 100-seat upper chamber. Two independent members typically vote with the Democrats. But the two independent votes are not assured, nor are those of three conservative Democrats representing states that normally vote Republican.

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An auction house worker holds the model of King Kong featured in the original 1933 epic film, ahead of its auction, in central London yesterday.



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Pentagon to probe policies on volatile members of armed forces

SCRUTINY The Pentagon said Thursday it will scour its procedures for identifying volatile U.S. military service members hidden in the ranks following the Fort Hood shooting rampage.

A 45-day emergency investigation will examine personnel, medical, mental health, discharge and other policies in all corners of the vast Defence Department. It will also look at ways to improve security and emergency response at Defence Department facilities. "The shootings at Fort Hood raise a number of troubling questions that demand complete but prompt answers," Defence Secretary Robert Gates told a Pentagon news conference. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Oprah show set for 2011 end: Report

TV The Oprah Winfrey Show, an iconic broadcast that grew over two decades into a daytime television power-house, will end its run in 2011 after 25 seasons on the air, Winfrey's production company

said Thursday night. Winfrey plans to announce the final date for her show during a live broadcast on Friday, Harpo Productions Inc. said, bringing an end to what has been television's top-rated talk show for more than two decades. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Winfrey said Thursday night. Winfrey plans to announce the final date for her show during a live broadcast on Friday, Harpo Productions Inc. said, bringing an end to what has been television's top-rated talk show for more than two decades. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Comment

Welcome to 21st-century politics

UrbanCompass

Stephen Kimber



They were lying. We knew they were lying, even while they were still telling them. We voted for them anyway.

Some of us may have secretly hoped — for our children's children's sake — that, not only were they ly-

ing but also that they understood they were lying so they wouldn't then feel obliged to translate their little lies into big policies after those lies had finally accomplished what they were designed to do in the first place and helped them get elected.

Now that they've had to admit — without actually admitting, of course — that they lied to us, can any of us truthfully say we're surprised? Or, more importantly, that we think they should stick to their lies and hurtle us further down the highway to hell in our

handcart of an economy? I thought not.

Welcome to politics in the 21st century, where we listen to lies and hear truths, and where no good lie goes punished.

At least not in the short term.

Last week, Premier Darrell Dexter's blue ribbon panel of economic experts officially diagnosed what ails us. We face a future filled with lower government revenues, the panel explained, thanks not so much to the current recession — which we seem to be weathering better than

expected — but to more significant structural problems like declining offshore revenues and equalization payments, which, unfortunately, we can't simply spend our way out of.

The panel's Buckley's Mixture of get-well-slow solutions: Increase taxes and decrease services.

Dexter's NDP government, with seemly haste, embraced the report and effectively declared all its key recent election campaign promises — remember the balanced budget with nice new programs and no bad new taxes — null and void.

The interesting thing about all of this is how little it appeared to surprise — or upset — us.

That may be because we'd already decided, long before last spring's election was called, that Tory Premier Rodney MacDonald — a young-old, good ole boy reincarnation of spend-and-spend-some-more John Buchanan — had to go.

And that earnest new Liberal Leader Stephen McNeil — while he might very well be telling the truth about the financial situation and might someday be premier — wasn't quite ready for

prime time.

Which left us with sensible-shoes Darrell Dexter, who seemed smart enough to tell us what we wanted to hear yet wise enough to know we didn't really want him to do what we wanted him to promise he would.

So now here we are. Coming to terms with truths that dare not speak their name. Welcome to politics in the 21st century indeed.

Stephen Kimber, the Rogers Communications Chair in Journalism at the University of King's College, is the author of eight books.

Word on the street: Finish this sentence: If I ruled the world, I would ...

Jacob Brown
age 8,
Dartmouth

A: I would make everybody rich.



Alex DeLorey
age 8,
Dartmouth

A: I would make everything taste really good.



Cameron Lewis
age 8,
Dartmouth

A: I would make everyone hop on one foot for the rest of their lives.



Vivian Greene
age 4,
Vancouver

A: I would be a queen if I ruled the world, in a castle ... and I would shoot the bad guys.



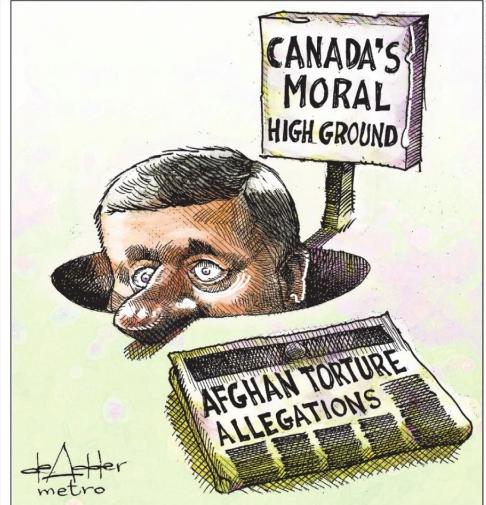
Timkin Yim
age 9, Toronto

A: I would be a billionaire ... I would spend it on those billionaire houses and those billionaire cars ... And I would have someone to serve me.



Jocelyn Donnelly
age 11, Calgary

A: I would build a place where there was endless life and dreams came true.



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Telecommunications company Avaya Inc. announced Thursday that it has received clearance from the European Commission for its proposed acquisition of Nortel's enterprise solutions business. Nortel announced the \$900-million deal with New Jersey-based Avaya in September. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Shops plan discounts to lure consumers

Canadian retailers are getting ready for the holiday season with rock-bottom prices and major promotional campaigns in hopes that shoppers will open their wallets and seize the opportunity to save.

Both U.S.-based retailing giant Wal-Mart and Sears Canada have unveiled campaigns centred around lower prices, particularly on bigger ticket items like iPods, LCD

televisions, Blu-Ray players and cooking sets.

The price cuts come at a time when Canadians are not exactly in a mood to part with their cash — a recent consumer confidence study from research firm TNS suggests an increasing number are planning to put off major purchases.

The report indicates consumers are expected to tighten their spending habits to the lowest levels in

"We know this has been a tough year for Canadians, so we have made every effort to drop our prices ... this holiday season."

David Cheesewright, Wal-Mart

four years, with about one-third of those surveyed expecting to spend less during the holidays than last year.

Those weaker expectations have persisted throughout the industry in recent months, with many

retailers complaining that sales have remained stagnant since the startup of holiday shopping weeks ago.

Wal-Mart says it will cut the prices of more than 18,000 items this month, which it says amounts to 20

per cent more cuts than at the same time last year.

"We know this has been a tough year for Canadians, so we have made every effort to drop our prices and help Canadians make their dollars go farther this holiday season," said David Cheesewright, the president and CEO of the retail giant's Canadian operations.

"In every department in our stores — from electron-

ics to toys to housewares to food — we offer everyday low prices as well as special holiday pricing."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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AOL offers 2,500 buyouts to staff

CUTS AOL LLC, an Internet company struggling to adapt to an advertising-driven economy, is looking to shed more than a third of its work force as it prepares to spin off from Time Warner Inc. next month.

Major job cuts had been expected, but the magni-

tude hadn't been known until Thursday. AOL, which employs 6,900 workers, is asking for 2,500 volunteers to accept buyouts and plans to resort to layoffs if it does not get enough people.

AOL hopes to trim annual costs by about \$300 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Minister plans plastics code to 'level the playing field'

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty is proposing a code of conduct for credit- and debit-card companies that he says will "level the playing field" for consumers and small businesses alike — but not before the Christmas shopping season.

The code, intended to promote fair business practices and ensure merchants and consumers clearly understand the costs and benefits of credit and debit cards, won't be finalized before early next year.

It aims to provide mer-

Draft code

- It would require credit- and debit-card companies to give merchants at least 90-days' notice of changes to transaction fees.
- It would allow merchants to cancel contracts with card issuers without penalty after notification of fee changes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

chants with more pricing flexibility so consumers can choose the best payment option, Flaherty said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Trump Ideal vitamins?



Donald Trump gestures as he speaks at the Eastern Ontario Economic Showcase in Ottawa in September. The ubiquitous Trump has partnered with Ideal Health, a Massachusetts-based nutritional products firm, and renamed it "The Trump Network." The Ideal Health premise is simple: Send results of in-home urinalysis test to the lab where the scientists analyze it to create a custom vitamin, later formulated by Custom Essentials.

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19

Lions pounce on Bearcats
The Halifax Lions got past the Truro Bearcats 3-1 in Maritime Junior A Hockey League action on Thursday night at the Forum. Chris Riguse, Robbie Veriker and Stuart Lenehan provided the offence for the Lions, 6-8-2. METRO HALIFAX

Sports

EDITOR: CHRIS.CLEMENTS@METRONEWS.CA



Jones to play in Uteck Bowl

The Saint Mary's Huskies are expecting to have a healthy Tristan Jones for Saturday's Uteck Bowl. The first-year tailback missed last weekend's Loney Bowl with a shoulder injury but has practised all week and is healthy enough to play. METRO HALIFAX

Meet the reinvented Erik Glavic

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

Just in case you didn't notice Erik Glavic's total offensive output of 2,689 yards and 20 touchdowns, or his second Hec Crighton nomination, his knee is doing just fine.

The 6-foot-6, 230-pound pivot hasn't missed a beat since leaving Erik Glavic Saint Mary's in January to take the keys to Blake Nill's high-powered Calgary Dinos' offence, leaving behind him a torn anterior cruciate injury that required surgery and more than a year of intense rehabilitation on the sidelines.

Heading into Saturday's 1 p.m. Uteck Bowl at Huskies Stadium, Glavic is healthy, albeit slightly reinvented.

"I don't think I'm the same player — I've ma-

tured, my arm strength's gotten better and I've developed my mechanics and become more of a complete quarterback," said the 23-year-old Glavic. "I've tried to throw the ball more and rely less on my legs and more on my football knowledge."

The Pickering, Ont., native has always been able to make things happen with his feet, and the Dinos led the nation in rushing with a staggering 283 yards per game. Glavic piled up 503 rushing yards and six touchdowns, adding to tailback Matt Walter's 1,114 yards and nine touchdowns on 169 carries.

All-star receivers Anthony Parker (816 yards, five touchdowns) and Nathan Coehoorn (765 yards, four touchdowns) give Glavic aerial threats that must be respected.

Creighton heads into Uteck Bowl flying far under the radar

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

QUARTERBACK For a starting quarterback in the Uteck Bowl, Jack Creighton has avoided the spotlight with relative ease.

The Saint Mary's Huskies' pivot has flown quietly under the radar this week with the spotlight placed firmly on Calgary Dinos' signal-caller Erik Glavic and the much-documented story between

head coaches Blake Nill and Steve Sumarah.

The game itself has been billed as a battle of the Dinos' high-powered offence versus the Huskies' stingy defence, leaving the 6-foot-4 sophomore almost an afterthought.

"He's still a young guy, still developing ... The pressure being off him has been a good thing," said Huskies head coach Steve Sumarah.

"If it was any other quar-

"He's still a young guy, still developing ... The pressure being off him has been a good thing." Huskies head coach Steve Sumarah on Jack Creighton

at this point, there would be more pressure on him."

Creighton wouldn't even be in this position if it wasn't for Glavic leaving Saint Mary's this past January.

But when Glavic moved on, Creighton retained the job he seized in 2008 while Glavic was sidelined with a

serious knee injury.

Although the Huskies cringed when Glavic left, Creighton didn't.

"I was excited," Creighton said.

"I'm kind of glad he left because it gives me a chance to play all five years."

The Huskies' offence has been inconsistent all year but typically runs the ball with gusto.

Creighton was able to make key plays at key times and passed for 1,862 yards and 10 touchdowns.

He goes up against a passing defence that allowed 274 yards per game, an underwhelming 23rd in the country.

"We've been working really hard in the film room and I see a lot holes we can take advantage of,"

Creighton said.

"All we've got to do is hang onto the ball, not make mistakes, put up some points, and I think we'll be successful."

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Canadians love skating? Go figure

Battle of the Blades helped viewers rediscover affection for the sport

Field of Play



The greatest outcome of the TV hit Battle of the Blades is that we Canadians have fallen in love with figure skating again.

Sure, there was the original fascination with hockey gods in sparkling outfits, dancing daintily without pads.

Maybe we shared a secret hope for an untimely pratfall. At the outset we were a bit like voyeurs waiting for the proverbial train wreck to happen.

It never did.

Instead we rediscovered a deep affection for something that was always there — and that something is the majestic athleticism of figure skating.

So while Claude Lemieux, Craig Simpson and the rest of our hockey

heroes became the focus of national attention for a moment, they were in fact our guides back to a wondrous sport that is so intrinsically Canadian.

When, in the grand finale, four-time world champion Kurt Browning gyrated around Maple Leaf Gardens ice, the clock went back to the glory days when he was king.

The same was true of the poignant reunion of Barb Underhill and Paul Martini, who once reigned over global pairs skating.

Meanwhile, Marie-France Dubreuil and Patrice Lauzon showed us the true magic of dancing on a frozen pond.

Let's hope Canada embraces figure skating and expresses this renewed connection to the obvious thrill of the

"It's a safe bet figure skating will claim much of the spotlight come February and almost certainly generate some of the signature moments of the Games."

sport now that Battle of the Blades has gone into hiatus.

The current generation of stars is anxiously entering its most competitive stage on the way to the home Olympics in Vancouver.

It's a safe bet figure skating will claim much of the spotlight come February and almost certainly generate some of the signature moments of the Games.

Just as the "Battle of the Brians" (Orser and Boitano), and Elizabeth Manley and

Katerina Witt gave the 1988 Calgary Olympics so much character, so too will the modern crop of Canadian skaters.

In Kitchener this weekend at Skate Canada, the final Grand Prix of the season, Patrick Chan, Joannie Rochette, Jessica Dubé and Bryce Davison in the pairs, and ice dancers Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir take the stage to form the strongest Canadian team in recent memory.

It's not as though fans have been clamouring for the two former light-heavyweight champs to settle some UFC-fabricated grudge that's lingered since Ortiz won a split decision three years ago. In fact, Griffin is a pinch-hitter for an injured Mark Coleman and the originally main event was actually a heavyweight title fight between champ Brock Lesnar and Shane Carwin, which was cancelled when Lesnar became ill.

That doesn't mean the fight isn't without drama. It's as much about a clash of personalities as it is fighting styles.

Ortiz is a cocky loudmouth who hasn't fought in 18 months, in part due to back surgery but mostly because he and one-time close friend UFC president Dana White hated each other's guts. They only recently buried the hatchet, which opened the door for Ortiz's return.

Ortiz is one of MMA's most disliked fighters, Griffin is one of its most popular, in large part because he won the first season of The Ultimate Fighter reality series. But the last time we saw Griffin he was sprinting from the octagon in embarrassment after getting knocked out by Anderson Silva at UFC 101.

Hopefully, the fight between Ortiz the wrestler and Griffin the striker lives up to the buildup.

SCOREBOARD

NHL

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Carolina 6 Toronto 5 (SO)
Ottawa 6 Pittsburgh 2
Boston 4 Atlanta 3 (SO)
Nashville 3 New Jersey 2 (SO)
St. Louis 3 Phoenix 2 (OT)
Columbus at Dallas N
Chicago at Calgary N
Tampa Bay at Anaheim N

CFL

SUNDAY EASTERN FINAL

B.C. at Montreal

WESTERN FINAL

Calgary at Saskatchewan

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East vs. West champions

Sports in brief

BASEBALL San Francisco Giants ace Tim Lincecum won the NL Cy Young Award Thursday for the second straight year. Only 10 points separated the top three vote-getters in the NL. Chris Carpenter was second and St. Louis teammate Adam Wainwright finished third.

BASEBALL The Yankees' Andy Pettitte and the Mets' Fernando Tatís have become the final players to file for free agency this year. Pitcher John Lackey, and outfielders Matt Holliday and Jason Bay of Trail, B.C., head one of the weaker free-agent classes in recent years.

NFL Buffalo Bills owner Ralph Wilson is prepared to revamp his entire football operation after the season and warned that no position is safe. "We've got to revamp and take a look at the whole operation and that's what we're going to do," Wilson told The Associated Press.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Senators rough up Penguins

NHL RESULT

Penguins 2 Senators 6



Chris Phillips celebrated his 800th NHL game with a pair of goals Thursday night as the Ottawa Senators cruised to a 6-2 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins.

Phillips scored twice in the third period and the Senators chased Penguins starter Marc-Andre Fleury from the game with three goals early in the third period before a crowd of 17,039 at Scotiabank Place. Ottawa has now won back-to-back games for the first time in more than a month.

Early in the second, Milan Michalek redirected Daniel Alfredsson's shot past Fleury after Pittsburgh's Jordan Staal and Ottawa's Matt Carkner traded first-period goals.

Chris Kelly's first goal of the season stood as the eventual game winner early in the third before Phillips and Jonathan Cheechoo piled on the misery.

The Senators managed



Ottawa Senator Chris Phillips checks Pittsburgh Penguin Sidney Crosby during second period NHL action in Ottawa Thursday. The Senators won 6-2.

to keep Sidney Crosby in check, holding the Penguins captain without a point for the first time in four games.

Pascal Leclaire stopped

25 shots for the Senators (10-6-3), who last won two straight Oct. 15 and 17.

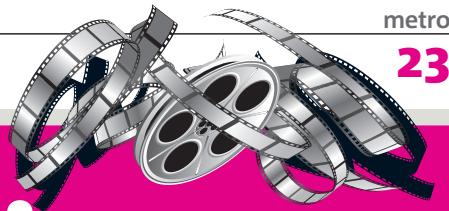
Mike Fisher recorded three assists and Nick Foligno and Alexandre Pi-

card had two apiece. Kelly also set up a goal.

Evgeni Malkin, with a late power-play goal, also scored for Pittsburgh.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Visit metronews.ca/movies to get showtimes, watch trailers and read reviews.



23

Movies & Entertainment

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Movies

Bella's back

Pg 24



Kristen Stewart stars in the vampiric blockbuster-in-waiting *New Moon*, which our reviewer says is sure to please *Twilight* fans.

Movies

Pg 30



Sandra Bullock's latest film, *The Blind Side*, bores.

Music

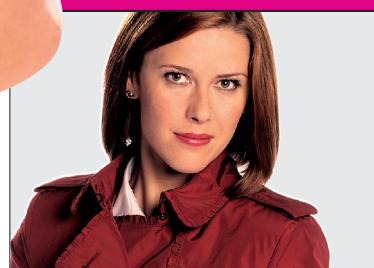
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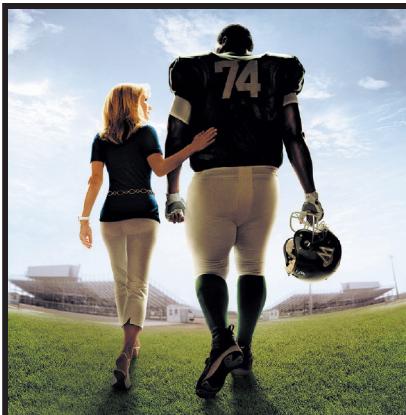
Alan Cross takes on *Them Crooked Vultures*.

Television

Pg 33



Cra\$h and Burn looks at corruption in *The Hammer*.



“BOTH FUNNY AND UPLIFTING,
‘The Blind Side’ is one of the best films of the holiday season!” — *Mose Persico, CTV MONTREAL*

SANDRA BULLOCK THE BLIND SIDE



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24 movies&entertainment

Movies

A CLASSIC; EXCELLENT; GOOD; FAIR; POOR

A Moon to swoon

The Twilight Saga: New Moon

Director: Chris Weitz
Stars: Robert Pattinson, Taylor Lautner, Kristen Stewart
Classification: STC
Rating: 

CHRIS ALEXANDER
 for Metro Canada

No matter how this review of *New Moon* ends, whether this critic loves or loathes the film, is irrelevant. If you're one of the legion of "Twihards," you'll be stepping on heads to see it this weekend anyway.

Nevertheless, Chris Weitz's eagerly anticipated follow-up to Catherine Hardwicke's blockbuster vampire epic *Twilight* isn't half bad: It's a faithful,

On the web

- For movie photos, trailers and screen times, visit metronews.ca/movies.

swoony, sweaty palmed teen-centric fantasy circus that knows exactly what its fervent fanbase demands and delivers those goods by the coffin load.

New Moon (based on the same named novel by series founder Stephenie Meyer) picks up shortly after the dramatic events of *Twilight* left off, with mortal high-school misfit Bella (Kristen Stewart) going steady with hunky vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) — dangers be damned.

But when a cut finger awakens the bloodlust in the Cullen clan, Edward



From left, Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner star in *The Twilight Saga: New Moon*.

flees, leaving his human muse to the affections of über-buff werewolf Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner) resulting in more heartache and PG-level horror.

New Moon isn't Shakespeare by any stretch (though Romeo and Juliet does figure rather heavily handedly into the narrative) but it is commendably hardcore in its single-mind-

ed drive to please its mostly female audience.

It's positively filled to the bursting point with doe-eyed romance, heavy petting, dreamy dialogue and shirtless werewolves (at the screening I attended, a chorus of young women sighed in unison every time Lautner doffed his duds, which was often).

But even if a supernatural

soap opera isn't your thing, *New Moon* contains some dazzling imagery and action sequences that are simply beautiful to behold. An extended set piece involving Bella, her vampiric nemesis Victoria (Rachelle Lefevre), and a heroic werewolf is driven by the hypnotic rhythm of Radiohead; its fluid CGI trickery and mild ferocity absolutely

spellbinding in their design.

Same goes for the pulpy climax, where real deal actors Michael Sheen (Frost/Nixon) and Dakota Fanning (War of the Worlds) embody designer evil as the leaders of the dreaded Volturi.

If *New Moon* has any real flaws, they're certainly no fault of the filmmakers. Meyer's novel was ultimately a bridge, the mid chapter of a quartet that serves to set up the sting of *Eclipse* (the film version of which is currently in post-production) and the climax of *Breaking Dawn*. But *New Moon* is effective and it not only honours its source, it also does what the first film couldn't quite achieve: It etches out an identity of its own.

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To read an exclusive interview with Twilight star Nikki Reed, visit metronews.ca, or scan this barcode. Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

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Troy Duffy adds more firepower in the *Boondock Saints* sequel.

Saints action overkill

Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day

Director: Troy Duffy
Stars: Norman Reedus, Sean Patrick Flannery
Classification: STC
Rating: 

CHRIS ALEXANDER
 for Metro Canada

REVIEW Watching Troy Duffy's mind numbing sequel to his cult hit *Boondock Saints* is akin to being battered across the face with a raw steak for two interminable hours.

This obnoxiously macho, ultraviolent (and unpleasantly homophobic) bit of smarmy gun porn might please devotees of Duffy's equally vulgar — but far more fun — 1999 original, but all others might just find themselves choking on the sheer overload of aimless testosterone.

Boondock Saints 2: All Saints Day picks up 10 years after the original ended, with deranged, devoutly Catholic Irish brothers/assassins Murphy (Norman Reedus) and Connor (Sean Patrick Flannery) McManus called out of exile in Ireland to go after the Boston-based scumbags that murdered a priest and pinned it on them.

As the lads reconnect with their old crew and pick up an enthusiastic Mexican sidekick (Crank 2's Clifton Collins Jr.), tons of bullets meet blood-spattered bones.

For all its fetish-filled, slow motion action, patience trying flashback sequences and puffed chest bravado, this is really dull stuff. Turns from the great Billy Connolly as the boys' killer-with-a-heart-of-gold dad and a weird cameo from Peter Fonda are welcome but do little to add interest.

Facinelli Pattinson's wingman

He may play Robert Pattinson's vampire dad in the *Twilight* movies — but in real life, Peter Facinelli is more his wingman. "People always come up to me say, 'Oh my god ... can you give this letter to Rob?'" he tells *Women's Health*. **PEOPLE.COM**



★★★★ A CLASSIC; ★★★★ EXCELLENT; ★★★ GOOD; ★★ FAIR; ★ POOR

It's Rain-ing Ninjas

Korean pop star sweats it out for martial arts role

STEV GOW
for Metro Canada



When Korean pop star Rain took the lead role of an elite killer in *Ninja Assassin*, he knew it was going to be difficult but he surely wasn't prepared for what would be the most arduous challenge.

"I trained for eight months, five days a week, eight hours a day," said the 27-year-old during a recent stop in Toronto. "(But) the hardest part was food. I really love junk food — French fries, hamburgers, pizza — I ate only chicken breast and vegetables. No sugar, no salt — it was so painful."

As challenging as his diet was, *Ninja Assassin* — which opens Wednesday — will be a huge break in North America for the international singer whose already conquered the charts in Asia and been named one of Time Magazine's 100 Most Influential People Who Shape Our World — an honour that may have helped land him a role in last year's *Speed Racer*.

Ninja Assassin opens in theatres on Wednesday

"I couldn't have done this without the crew (of *Speed Racer*)," said Rain, noting that directors the Wachowski brothers (who produced *Ninja Assassin*) marked him for the role from the start. "When we were working on *Speed Racer*, Larry and Andy Wachowski offered (the role) to me. How could I say no to them?"

Adopting the classic ninja storyline in which orphans are disciplined in secret schools to become stealthy killers, *Ninja Assassin* tells the tale of an agile ninja (Rain) who rejects the clan and sets his sights on ending the practice of kidnapping children to transform into deadly assassins.

"The history of ninjas is true," said Rain, explaining that the Japanese lore dates back to the 14th century.

Assassin also gave Rain the chance to dive into a cinematic genre that's always fascinated him — martial arts. But while he admits Bruce Lee's *Enter the Dragon* is his favourite

martial arts movie, it's another type of actor that Rain personally idolizes.

"Do you know *Scarface*?" asked Rain rhetorically.

"That's my favourite. I love Al Pacino — I want to work with him."

Watch out Al, you have a *Ninja Assassin* on your tail.



Korean pop star Rain plays an elite killer in *Ninja Assassin*.

Moore doc out of Oscar race

Of the 89 documentary films eligible for Oscar consideration this year, 15 were selected for a short list of potential nominees. And Michael Moore's *Capitalism: A Love Story* wasn't one of them.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced the 15 titles Wednesday.

Some of the year's most popular documentary features were overlooked, including Moore's R-rated film, which was praised by critics and earned more than \$14 million at the box office.

Also omitted from Oscar consideration was the well-reviewed Mike Tyson documentary *Tyson*, the rock-doc *It Might Get Loud*, and the story of *Vogue* magazine and its editor-in-chief, *The September Issue*.

The short list of films is determined by a committee of members of the academy's documentary branch. They watch all eli-

The long list

- The selections this year are *The Beaches of Agnes*, *Burma VJ*, *The Cove*, *Every Little Step*, *Facing Ali*, *Food, Inc.*, *Garbage Dreams*, *Living in Emergency: Stories of Doctors Without Borders*, *The Most Dangerous Man in America: Daniel Ellsberg* and the *Pentagon Papers*, *Mugabe* and the *White African*, *Sergio*, *Soundtrack for a Revolution*, *Under Our Skin*, *Valentino: The Last Emperor* and *Which Way Home*.

gible contenders and vote for their favourites by secret ballot. The top vote-getters make the short list of potential nominees.

Five documentary features from that list will be chosen as nominees for the 82nd Academy Awards.

Nominations will be announced Feb. 2, 2010, and the awards will be presented March 7.

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This week's new releases are highlighted in pink.

THIS PAGE COVERS MOVIE START TIMES FROM FRI., NOV. 20 TO THURS., NOV. 26. TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. COMPLETE LISTINGS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT [METRONEWS.CA/MOVIES](http://metroneWS.ca/movies).**HALIFAX****BAYERS LAKE**190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800**2012** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Sat 12:40-10:24-25:45-6:30-8:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 12:40-1:10-2:45-3:45-7:30-8:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Mon 12:40-1:10-2:45-3:45-6:30-8:20 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, Tu-Thu 12:40-1:10-2:45-4:35-6:30-8:20**The Blind Side** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:45-3:50-7:30-8:20**The Boondock Saints II: All Saints Day** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 12:40-4:10-7:20-9:55**Couples Retreat** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Wed 12:50-4:6-55-9:40 Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Thu 12:50-4-9:40**Disney's A Christmas Carol 3D** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:20-4:15-7:20-9:55**Fantastic Mr. Fox** (STC) Dolby Stereo Wed-Thu 1:15-4:10-6:55-9:35**Good Hair** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 10:10**Law Abiding Citizen** (18) Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 1:05-4:10-7:05-9:50**The Men Who Stare at Goats** (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Sat 1:05-4:15-7:15-10 Dolby Stereo Sun 1:05-4:15-7:15-10**Michael Jackson's This Is It** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Tue 1:30-4:20-7:20-9:55**Ninja Assassin** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed-Thu 1:25-4:20-7:30-10:10**Old Dogs** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Wed 12:50-3:50-4:20-7:20-9:45-10**Paranormal Activity** (STC) Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 1:35-2:25-7:25-10:10**Pirate Radio** (14) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:10-4:15-7:10-9:50**Planet 51** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating Fri-Thu 1:15-4:05-6:50-9:25**The Twilight Saga: New Moon** (PG) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Fri-Thu 12:30-1:15-3:45-4:15-6:40-6:55-7:15-9:35-9:50-10-10:05-10:15-10:15**Where the Wild Things Are** (PG) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo Fri-Tue 12:35-3:40-6:55**WWE: Survivor Series** (STC) Dolby Stereo, Stadium Seating, No Passes Sun 9**IMAX**190 Chain Lake Dr., Bayers Lake
902-876-4800**Disney's A Christmas Carol: An IMAX 3D Experience** (STC) Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Fri-Tue 12:50-3:55-7:9-9:40 Stadium Seating, Dolby Stereo, No Passes Wed 12:30-3:55-7:9-9:40**OXFORD THEATRE**6408 Quinpool Rd.
902-423-7488**An Education** (STC) Fri 7:9-15 Sat-Sun 4:30-7:9-15 Mon-Tue 7:9-15 Wed 9:30 Thu 7:9-15**PARK LANE**5657 Spring Garden Rd.
902-423-4860**2012** (PG) No Passes, Stadium Seating Fri-Sat 12:30-4-7:30-10:50 No

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Reel Time

Blind Side? More like the boring Side

The Blind Side

Director: John Lee Hancock
Stars: Sandra Bullock, Quinton Aaron
Classification: STC
Rating: 

NED EHRBAR
 Metro World News 

About what feels like it should be three quarters of the way through The Blind Side, massive, mild-mannered football phenomenon Michael Oher (Quinton Aaron) finally takes the field in the movie's only showcase of the high school football it spends a fair amount of time discussing.

(It's not until the movie finally ends that you realize that sequence was more like halfway through.)

It's an exciting scene, filled with enough tension and emotion to make even the football-phobic sit up and take notice.

But that's just one scene in a movie full of many scenes.

After that, it's back to the tale of Oher being adopted by Leigh Anne (Sandra Bullock) and Sean Tuohy (Tim McGraw), wealthy, white parents who open their home to

poor, black Oher after he's granted a free ride to their biological children's private school.

The problem is, for all the built-in drama of the true story with a very happy ending (Oher was drafted to the Baltimore Ravens, playing his first season with the team this year), the end product is long, boring and entirely too self-congratulatory on the adoptive parents' part.

After watching Aaron's portrayal of Oher — completely accurate, by all accounts — what would be remarkable is anyone not wanting to help such a kind, lovable young man once they've met him.

Newcomer Aaron does a commendable job with what little he's given to work with,

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Quinton Aaron, centre, and Sandra Bullock star in The Blind Side.

On the web



Want to watch this movie:

- For The Blind Side photos, a trailer and screen times — or to buy tickets — visit metronews.ca/movies

best to showcase a young man determined not to let the shortcomings of the hand he was dealt stop him from being a good person.

But, his role is mostly reduced to a prop for Bullock's Leigh Anne, a gaudy,

scenery-chewing spitfire of a woman.

After watching her stomp around for 126 minutes lecturing everyone around her in an ever-shifting accent, a nice game of football would be very welcome.

It's bleak travelling along The Road to apocalypse

STEVE GOW
 for Metro Canada 

FILM Under normal circumstances, adapting a best-selling Pulitzer Prize-winning novel for the big-screen might be an unnerving prospect but when it came to making The Road, director John Hillcoat had an ace in his pocket.

"Luckily I read it before it was published so none of that baggage was there," admitted the filmmaker during a recent interview. "But what I did was not try to think of all the expectations. To me, it was just one of the most moving love stories I've ever come across and that's what we were all engaged with."

For those who've crossed paths with Cormac McCarthy's masterpiece, the film is every bit as bleak,

beautiful and heart-wrenching as the 2006 novel. Set in a not-so-far-away post-apocalyptic time, Viggo Mortensen plays a father who struggles to survive alongside his son (Kodi Smit-McPhee) in a world where the solace of discovering a cellar full of canned pears is tantamount to buried treasure.

Matching that tone was crucial and anyone familiar with Hillcoat's 2005 film The Proposition knew the director had a knack for capturing that same bleak landscape that was necessary for The Road — which opens next Friday.

"(Landscape) is like one of the main characters," said Hillcoat of his mastery of atmosphere. "In both (The Proposition and The Road), the characters actually react to the environment in a (similar) way to



Director John Hillcoat on the set of The Road.

how they act off each other so it's quite a dynamic relationship."

"(In The Road), it's not enough sun and too much cold and each creates a

pressure on how people live and relate."

In the case of The Road,

"It's not enough sun and too much cold and each creates a pressure on how people live and relate." John Hillcoat

that pressure is especially crushing to a father coping with the emotional reality that his son may outlive him in such a terrible world. As such, perhaps the only more important challenge was casting Mortensen in the film. After all, the Oscar-nominated actor was the one person who Hillcoat insists could "survive in a post-apocalyptic world."

"He's just got a real physicality to him and yet there's the intensity to him as well and I think that was needed to buy that he gets through (this)," said Hillcoat. "Yet there's this every man quality to his face that I couldn't get out of my mind."

Billboard's top albums

1. The Circle, Bon Jovi; 2. My Christmas, Andrea Bocelli; 3. Play On, Carrie Underwood;
4. Michael Jackson's This Is It, Michael Jackson; 5. Fearless, Taylor Swift. METRO NEWS SERVICES

From Judas Priest to Christmas carols

'Devil be damned,' Rob Halford tries his hand at rock of another variety

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

Unmistakable with his scorching voice, leather outfit and many tattoos, Rob Halford is known best as the front man for loud music veterans Judas Priest.

Get ready for a shock though.

You're about to see this heavy metal hero in a very different light: Christmas caroller.

Yes, the Metal God — a long-standing nickname bestowed upon Halford for his iconic vocal styling and indelible impact on the world of hard and heavy music over the past 30-plus years — has just released a tertiary full-length with his eponymous backing band and it's a holiday album.

Consider it his festive gift to headbangers the world 'round.

"I love Christmas time," admits the 58-year-old with a soft-tone that belies his reverence as one of metal's most brazen/dynamic voices.

"I think most of us do. It's a special time. We enjoy being with family and friends, exchanging gifts, drinking and eating food. It's a beautiful time that we have together."

Dubbed Winter Songs



There will be no satanic verses in Rob Halford's renditions of We Three Kings and Come All Ye Faithful on his Dubbed Winter Songs.

(Metal God Records), the 10-track affair is a comingling of holiday standards such as We Three Kings and Come All Ye Faithful with original compositions (Get Into The Spirit, Christmas Is For Everyone) delivered as one would expect: via blazing guitars, pounding, hyperactive drums and mind-melting solos.

And while it may seem to come from out of the blue, Winter Songs is an idea Halford has been toying with for years.

"I'm very happy to have been able to fulfill something I've wanted to do for as long as I can remember. It's always been in the back of my mind: wouldn't it be great if we had a bit more music to listen to and music in the style I'm associated with. Yet I waited (to do it) for multiple reasons. Is this a daring thing to do? Is it the right thing to do? How is it gonna sound? What's the journey gonna be like to make this happen? I think a lot of things through in

many ways and considered all of the possibilities but when I come to a conclusion, I can be very stubborn. I'll do it, devil be damned."

Yes, Winter Songs would surprise even Beelzebub himself but it's no slouch. Since its Nov. 3 release date, initial shock has worn off and it is being duly heaped with accolades for sincerity, depth and unyielding metal, subject matter notwithstanding. It rocks relentlessly; is a fun but tough dose of metallic

cheer.

"That's a great way to describe it," the obstinate Brit commands before alluding to a possible sequel. "It's a concise way to describe what I was hoping to achieve with this.

The initial response has been encouraging. (Fans have) said, 'Thank God we've got something for this time of year to listen to in our own style ... that we enjoy.' I had so much fun making this record, I could even go for another batch."

EMI shuts down two music sites

LAWsuit Two Web sites that sold songs by The Beatles for 25 cents apiece should remain shut down indefinitely, a federal judge ruled Wednesday.

U.S. District Judge John F. Walter issued a preliminary injunction against BlueBeat.com and Basebeat.com at the request of music company EMI Group. The injunction prohibits the sites and their owner, Hank

Risan, from streaming or selling songs by the Fab Four and other popular artists, based on a technique he pioneered called "psycho-acoustic simulation."

• Attorneys for the music label called the filing "technobabble"

Filings

- Risan argued in court filings that he had re-recorded the music and inserted artistic touches based on a technique he pioneered called "psycho-acoustic simulation."

- Attorneys for the music label called the filing "technobabble"

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Music

Hedley preaches on worshiping false Idols

New album, The Show Must Go On, takes shots at reality TV, pokes fun at Hoggard's past

BRYAN BORZYKOWSKI
for Metro Canada

In Hedley's early days, lead singer Jacob Hoggard spent a lot of energy trying to make people forget that he ever appeared on Canadian Idol.

"There was a period where we worked as hard as we could to separate ourselves from the show," he says.

So it's a bit surprising that he'd revisit his Idol past on his new album, The Show Must Go On.

The track, Cha-Ching, pokes fun of all the major reality TV shows, from Survivor to the Biggest Loser.

But he saves some of the better barbs for himself — "Line up all the idols, who paint on phony smiles, tryin' to ride the fast track for free," he sings.

In the video he dresses up in a blue spandex outfit — it's a similar getup to what he wore during an



Jacob Hoggard says now is the perfect time to address his time on American Idol.

Idol episode — and sings in front of three judges.

"It was time to bring it up and remind everyone of how lightly we take this," says Hoggard, explaining why he chose to make fun of the very thing that

"This isn't some weird topic you shouldn't bring up to us."

Hoggard adds that now was the perfect time to sing about his reality TV days.

For one, the genre is far more outlandish than

when he was vying for his 15 minutes, and after two albums that have gone platinum, the singer's not defined by Idol anymore, even though it remains a piece of their identity.

"We could get away with it because it's still a part of

who we are," he says. "Plus, it's a commentary on how far people are willing to go in 2009."

The band has come a long way since Hoggard was on TV, but Hedley's new disc takes the band in a completely new direction.

For the most part, the band trades their power punk edge for sunnier mid-tempo pop.

Cha-Ching could be a track off a Smash Mouth album; Hands Up sounds a lot like an Aerosmith tune.

There are more introspective moments — Sweater Song (not a Weezer cover) is a soft and touching finger-picked number.

It's the best and most interesting track here.

"It's different and has a very unconventional pop song structure," says Hoggard about the tune.

The new sound is making the singer a little nervous, though he's always apprehensive around release dates.

"After you put so much time into something like there, there's so much stress," he says.

"But you have to hope for the best and know you did your due diligence and made the best record you could."

It's likely the disc will do well, so he doesn't have to worry about falling back on a reality television career.

But if he had to choose one show to be on it might be his favourite program: Wife Swap.

"The British version," he clarifies.

"They get to smoke all the time."

Hedley's new album is in stores now

1515 SOUTH PARK ST. DOWNTOWN HALIFAX 800.565.2020

* Per couple. Based on double occupancy plus applicable tax. Subject to availability.

TCV crooked as they come

SoundCheck

Alan Cross

metroneWS.ca/soundcheck



Them Crooked Vulture's released their first album this week.

Want more?

You can hear the whole interview with Them Crooked Vultures at their recording space in Burbank on ExploreMusic.com

(Bonham) trying to form a new band that wasn't going to be called Led Zeppelin," says JPJ, "and it was just coming to an end when Dave mentioned this idea."

"It just sort of fell together," says Homme.

"This is the kind of thing that if you don't grab it by the neck and run with it, it'll just turn to vapour."

Dave chimes in. "I wanted to be musical and be home at the same time. The last thing I wanted to do was start another band and go back out on the road. I thought we could just play in the studio and make something good. I honestly didn't imagine we'd be doing this."

But now that they've started something, now what? How far can they take this? Dave props himself up against some pillows on the sectional. A big grin spreads across his face. "As far as it will go."

The world HQ for Them Crooked Vultures hides in plain sight: an anonymous building on an ordinary street in Burbank.

It's only after you step inside that you realize that it's as fortified as a North Korean bunker. That Bob Hope Airport is a short walk away is a good thing, given the private jet requirements of the band.

This is Pink Duck Studios, Josh Homme's playground, a studio where Queens of the Stone Age and Eagles of Death Metal albums take shape and also where he worked on the material he produced for the Arctic Monkeys' Humbug album. The main room of the studio also serves as TCV's rehearsal space.

The amount of gear is staggering. I have a half-hour audience with all three members before band practice. Josh takes his seat in the main control room chair. Dave

Grohl flops face down into some pillows on the sectional next to me. Meanwhile, John Paul Jones — the quiet one in Led Zeppelin — is true to form, content to let his bandmates do all the kibitzing as he eases into the chair he's brought from another room. He sets himself up between the two. "This is my spot," he says.

Although the idea of TCV first surfaced years ago, it only became reality this past January when JPJ suddenly found himself with some free time.

"I'd spent quite a few months rehearsing with Jimmy (Page) and Jason

The Ongoing History Of New Music can be heard on stations across Canada. Read more at ongoinghistory.com and exploremusic.com

Sarah Palin interview draws high ratings for Oprah

Sarah Palin's appearance on The Oprah Winfrey Show Monday earned an 8.7 household rating and a 13 share, the talk show queen's highest ratings since interviewing the Osmonds in 2007, according to The Hollywood Reporter. TVGUIDE.COM

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Television

New series shines spotlight on Steeltown

IAN JOHNSTON
For Metro Canada



It doesn't happen too often, but Hamilton actually gets to play itself in the new Showcase series Cra\$h & Burn.

"It's rather unapologetically Hamilton," says actress Caroline Cave, who plays company lawyer Catherine Scott in the ensemble show about the ruthless insurance game. "It really gives Hamilton a personality, which it always had, but maybe it doesn't get a chance to show all the time."

The series, created by Malcolm MacRury (ZOS: Zone of Separation), and starring Luke Kirby (Slings and Arrows), has a lot of unique aspects beyond its backdrop. First, it's a show about the world of insurance, which immediately raises the question: Who wants to watch that? Most folks probably want to avoid the topic of insurance altogether.

But, as portrayed in Cra\$h & Burn, a day in the life of insurance adjuster Jimmy Burn (Kirby) can get pretty exciting. It involves not only shifty clients, but also crooked lawyers and

the Russian mob. Back at the office, there's also a tote board that keeps a running score on who's been fired — and who's about to be. Add some sex and comedy, and it's quite a dramatic stew.

"It's not really a comedy or a drama," explains Cave. "Malcolm is always throwing the unexpected at us, and the characters are complex. Although her character comes off rather cold in the premiere

episode, not everything is what it seems.

"She's very unapologetic about her sexuality and how she lives and works," says Cave. "But she's a Bay Street lawyer working in Hamilton, so there's also a sense she wants to be somewhere else." Filming since July, Cave is looking forward to wrapping in December. She's got a wedding scheduled for New Year's Eve. And no, she's not marrying an insurance



Caroline Cave plays insurance company lawyer Catherine Scott in new series Cra\$h & Burn, set in Hamilton, Ont.

adjuster. "I'm marrying an accountant!"

• Cra\$h & Burn airs Wednesdays on Showcase.

Ricardo Bomba to appear on Simpsons

TELEVISION Ladies' man Ricardo Bomba is bringing his charms to The Simpsons, and it's all the doing of Peggy Black, 52, of Orange, Conn., who won a contest to create a character for Fox's long-running animated series. Her entry triumphed among the more than 25,000 received.

"Rrrri-carrr-do Bomba. He's someone that all the women love and all the men want to be," Black said. Bomba will be introduced in the Jan. 31 episode, featuring guest star Chris Martin of Coldplay. The episode had been mostly completed, with a spot reserved for the contest character.

In Million Dollar Maybe — an episode that centres on a winning lottery ticket — Homer Simpson is rushing to meet Marge for a date when he encounters Bomba, a handsome, smooth-talking South American nicknamed "La Bomba," who works at the town's nuclear power plant by day and "by night, works Springfield's singles scene," as Fox describes him.

Black won the grand prize — in celebration of the show's 20th anniversary — of a trip to Los Angeles to work with the show's producers and watch Bomba brought to life by animators.

"It's amazing to see how they captured what I imagined. I'm going to be immortalized forever by making a Simpsons' character," she said.



For November 19th

Chris Brown Ft Lil Wayne - I Can Transform Ya

Owl City - Fireflies

Belly Ft Snoop - Hot Girl

Jay Sean - Down

Down With Webster - Rich Girl\$

David Guetta Ft Akon - Sexy Chick

IYAZ - Replay

Britney Spears - 3

Ke\$ha - Tik Tok

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		H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/20/09		31	31	31	ABC	News Center	ABC News	Inside Edition	Chronicle	Shrek the Third *** (2007, Comedy)	Cameron Diaz	20/20	
sports		7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Degrassi: TNG	TMZ (N)	Law & Order "Shotgun"	Law & Order: SVU	Comedy Now		
cable variety		11	11	11	CBC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Ron James	Rick Mercer	CBC News: the fifth estate	CBC News: The National (N)	The Hour (N)	
primetime 11/21/09		32	32	32	CBS	WBZ News (N)	Evening News	Patriots All Access	Ghost Whisperer (N)	Medium (HDTV) (N)	NUMB3RS (N)		
sports		6	6	6	CIFH	Entertainment	ET Canada	The Guard "Lovesick"	NUMB3RS "Con Job"	Bones (HDTV PA)	News Final (N)		
cable variety		9	9	9	CJCH	Hollywood	Flashpoint (N)	Two/Half Men	House "Painless" (PA)	Bones (HDTV PA)	CTV News		
primetime 11/22/09		36	36	36	FOX	Seinfeld	The Simpsons	Two/Half Men	House "Painless" (PA)	Bones (HDTV PA)	Fox First		
sports		12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Hollywood	Extra (N)	Law & Order "Shotgun"	Dateline NBC	Jay Leno	
cable variety		55	55	55	SCOR	HST	Covers	Pokerstars Caribbean Adv.	WWE SmackDown!			MMA Night	
primetime 11/23/09		53	53	53	TSN	Off the Record	SportsCentre	NHL Hockey	Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals.		SportsCentre		
cable variety		16	16	16	A&E	The First 48 (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds "Lo-Fi"	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal		
primetime 11/24/09		70	70	70	APTN	Venturing Frth	Investigates	Fish Out of Blessings	Cashing In	Rabbit Fall	The Butcher's Wife *** (1991)		
cable variety		37	37	37	BRVO	Wind at My Back	Burning Rubber	Bravo!FACT	Cover Stories	White Collar (N)	Dexter		
primetime 11/25/09		49	49	49	COM	Just for Laughs	Air Force	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	Comedy Now	
sports		18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	CNN Tonight		Campbell Brown (N)	Larry King Live (N)	Cooper 360		
cable variety		38	38	38	DISC	How It's Made	Daily Planet (N)	Canada's Worst Driver	Man vs. Wild (N)	Angels			
primetime 11/26/09		34	48	48	HGTV	Extreme Makeover: Home	House	Property	House	Green Homes	Relocation, Relocation	House	
cable variety		46	46	46	HIST	Go Deep (HDTV)	Battles BC	Cold Blood (N)	When Disaster Strikes	Underworld			
primetime 11/27/09		17	17	17	MM	Love Court (N)	My Date	Gossip Girl (HDTV) (N)	The Vampire Diaries	The Matrix (1999, Science Fiction)			
sports		206	206	206	PIX	(6:40) Anaconda *	(8:15) The Cusp *** (1998, Science Fiction)			Liar Liar *** (1997, Comedy)			
cable variety		39	39	39	SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits	Howie Do It	Howie Do It	Kenny-Senny	Kenny-Senny	Law Order
primetime 11/28/09		40	40	40	SLICE	Vainly Insanity	Reboot	Rich Bride, Poor Bride	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part	Til Debt-Part
cable variety		21	21	21	TLC	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Dress	Happily Ever	
primetime 11/29/09		22	22	22	W	House-Sell	Confidential	Old Christine	Friends	Medium	Notes on a Scandal *** (2006, Drama)		
sports		27	27	27	YTV	ICarly	To Be Indie	SpongeBob SquarePants (N)	SpongeBob	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	That's-Weird	
		H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/20/09		31	31	31	ABC	College Football	NewsCenter 5	Inside Edition	College Football Regional Coverage. (HDTV) (Live)				
sports		7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea	Chasing Wild Horse		Silver Man *** (2000, Drama)	Paul Popovich			
cable variety		11	11	11	CBC	National Hockey Night	NHL Hockey Washington Capitals at Toronto Maple Leafs. (HDTV) (Live)						
primetime 11/21/09		32	32	32	CBS	College Football	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy!	The Mentalist (HDTV)	48 Hours Mystery	48 hr. Mystery		
sports		6	6	6	CIFH	renegade	Jane Show	Project Runway Canada	Mon, Dad & Her (2008, Drama)	Melora Hardin	News Final (N)		
cable variety		9	9	9	CJCH	W5 (N) (DVS)	Law & Order: SVU		The Mentalist (HDTV)	Law & Order (HDTV)	CTV News		
primetime 11/22/09		36	36	36	FOX	Friends	Friends	Seinfeld	Cops (N)	Cops (N)	America's Most Wanted	Fox First	
sports		12	12	12	NBC	News	Access Hollywood (N)	Access Hollywood (N)	Mercy (HDTV)	Law & Order (HDTV)	Law/Or SVU		
cable variety		55	55	55	SCOR	MMA Show	Footy Show	VWE Vintage Collection	MMA Show	Cabby Unlimit	Score on NFL	Footy Show	Hockey Sat.
primetime 11/23/09		53	53	53	TSN	University Football	SportsCentre	NFL Films	World Extreme Cagefighting (HDTV)				
cable variety		16	16	16	A&E	CST: Miami "Push"	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal		
primetime 11/24/09		70	70	70	APTN	Over the Bolts	The Mix	MYTV	Aboriginal Day	Music Speaks	First Nation	The Astronaut's Wife (1999, Science Fiction)	
cable variety		37	37	37	BRVO	Arts & Minds	Bravo!Videos	Spectacle: Elvis	Star Portraits	Books-Film	Runaway Jury *** (2003, Suspense)		
primetime 11/25/09		49	49	49	COM	VIP	Bet Your Ass	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	Corner Gas	Jeff Dunham	The Simpsons	South Park
cable variety		18	18	18	CNN	Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer	Newsroom		Campbell Brown	Larry King Live	Newsroom		
primetime 11/26/09		38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	Cash Cab (N)	Destroyed	Canada's Worst Driver	Time Warp		
cable variety		34	48	48	HGTV	Holmes Inspection	Handyman Superstar	Colin & Justin's Home Heist	Destroyed	Property	Property	Makeover	
primetime 11/27/09		46	46	46	HIST	Re-Inventors	Ultimate Engineering	Cities of the Underworld	Destroyed	Canada's Worst Driver	Time Warp		
sports		17	17	17	MM	The Vampire Diaries		The Matrix *** (1999, Science Fiction)	Destroyed	Canada's Worst Driver	Time Warp		
cable variety		206	206	206	PIX	(6: Major League			Destroyed	Canada's Worst Driver	Time Warp		
primetime 11/28/09		39	39	39	SHOW	Howie Do It	About a Girl	The Guard "Live Free"	Summer House (2008, Suspense)	Lindsay Price	Brave One		
cable variety		40	40	40	SLICE	Til Debt-Part	Real Housewives of Jersey	Real Housewives-Atlanta	Real Housewives NYC	Real Housewives NYC	Runway		
primetime 11/29/09		21	21	21	TLC	Jon & Kate	Jon & Kate	Lottery Changed My Life	Lottery Changed My Life	Lottery Changed My Life	Lottery Chg.		
cable variety		22	22	22	W	What Women	How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days *** (2003, Romance-Comedy)		Lottery Changed My Life	Lottery Changed My Life	Lottery Chg.		
primetime 11/30/09		27	27	27	YTV	Kid vs. Kat	League-Evil	Prank Patrol	Prank Patrol	Funniest Home Videos	That's-Weird	Sorry	Survive This
		H	D	B	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/20/09		31	31	31	ABC	NASCAR Racing Sprint Cup - Ford 400.		Home Videos	2009 American Music Awards (HDTV) (Live)				
cable variety		7	7	7	ASN	The Road to Avonlea		Next Top Model	2009 American Music Awards (HDTV) (Live)				
primetime 11/21/09		11	11	11	CBC	Heartland (N) (DVS)		Figure Skating	The Nature of Things	CBC News: The National (N)	fifth estate		
cable variety		32	32	32	CBS	NFL Football: Jei at Patriots		60 Minutes (HDTV) (N)	The Amazing Race 15	Cold Case "Chinatown"	Three Rivers		
primetime 11/22/09		6	6	6	CIFH	16:9 Picture	Prod. Parker	House "Last Resort"	The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	American Dad	News Final (N)
cable variety		9	9	9	CJCH	Degrassi: TNG	Degrassi: TNG	Cold Case "Chinatown"	The Amazing Race 15	The Mentalist	CTV News		
primetime 11/23/09		36	36	36	FOX	Cold Case "Offender"	Brothers	The Simpsons	The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	American Dad	Fox First
cable variety		12	12	12	NBC	News	NBC News	Football Night in America	The Simpsons	Cleveland Sh	Family Guy	American Dad	Fox First
primetime 11/24/09		55	55	55	SCOR	(6) NFL Blitz	The WWE Experience	Football Night in America	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Phoenix Suns. (Live)				
cable variety		53	53	53	TSN	CFL Football		Football Night in America	NBA Basketball Detroit Pistons at Phoenix Suns. (Live)				
primetime 11/25/09		16	16	16	A&E	CST: Miami "Ambush"	CSI: Miami "All In"		Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal Minds (HDTV)	Criminal		
cable variety		70	70	70	APTN	Investigates	Aboriginal Day	The Mix	Arbor Live	Out of Africa *** (1985, Romance)			
primetime 11/26/09		37	37	37	BRVO	Spectacle: Elvis	Aboriginal Day	Bravo!FACT	Kyle Rabilko: The Lead	Children of Men (2006, Science Fiction)			
cable variety		49	49	49	COM	VIP	Bet Your Ass	Laughs	Comedy Now	Comedy Now	The Simpsons	South Park	Tosh.0
primetime 11/27/09		18	18	18	CNN	Newsroom		Newsroom	Campbell Brown	Larry King Live	Newsroom		
cable variety		38	38	38	DISC	Cash Cab	How It's Made	MythBusters	JFK: Inside the Target Car	JFK: The Ruby Connection	MythBusters		
primetime 11/28/09													

Television

Top dancer hits the road for Canadian tour

IAN JOHNSTON
for Metro Canada**Since winning top honours on So You Think You Can Dance-Canada in October, Tara-Jean Popowich has been on quite a wild ride.**

"I've been so busy. My new car is still sitting in my driveway at home, teasing me," says Popowich, who won the car and \$100,000, along with the title of SYTYCD-Canada's top dancer. "I'm having fun. So don't wake me up, or it'll all be gone."

For the Lethbridge, Alberta-native, doing what she loves includes an 18-city, SYTYCD cross-country tour. Kicking off in Kelowna, B.C. on Wednesday, the production will feature the top ten finalists from the second season. "It's going to feature all the season faves, plus some new choreography. It's very exciting and entertaining."

Popowich, 20, admits there's one stop on the tour she's particularly excited about — the one in her hometown on Nov. 29. "It's the day after my birthday," she says. "I've got

about a thousand requests for front row tickets."

Popowich has found a little spare time to put a dent in that prize money. She paid off her mother's mortgage, helped out on her brother's tuition, and bought herself a computer. "I invested the rest of it, so it's a bit like I'm still living like I never won."

Popowich's longterm plans call for dancing and more dancing. "I want to continue to teach dance and perform. You know, dance as long as I can. Dance 'til the body finally falls apart." With auditions



Tara-Jean Popowich, winner of So You Think You Can Dance Canada season two, is taking her talents on the road this month.

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Conrad to pen book on style

She's a successful TV star, fashion designer and fiction writer, but she hasn't written a book on style — until now. Lauren Conrad will unveil her top style tips in *Lauren Conrad Style*, to be published by Harper Collins in the fall of 2010. **PEOPLE.COM**

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Going Out

Mix of Six

Uteck Bowl

When: Saturday, 1 p.m.

Where: Huskies Stadium

Huskies take on the Calgary Dinos for the right to advance to the Vanier Cup. Adult tickets are \$17.

Chantal Kreviazuk

When: Friday, 8 p.m.

Where: Casino Nova Scotia

One of Canada's top singer-songwriters is coming back to Halifax for the second of two shows at the Casino. \$59.

Extinction Song

When: Through Nov. 29

Where: Art Gallery of Nova Scotia

This one-man

show tells the story of the relationship between seven-year-old James and his alcoholic father. For prices and show times: easternfronttheatre.com.

14th Annual Holiday Parade of Lights

When: Saturday, 6 p.m.

Where: Downtown Halifax

Here's your best way to get into the festive spirit early this year. The parade begins on Upper Water Street at Cornwallis Street, concluding at the corner of University Avenue and Robie Street.

Comedy Cabaret with Lorne Elliott

When: Friday 7:30 p.m.

Where: Alderney Landing Theatre

Those who love a good book and a good laugh won't want to miss the Comedy Cabaret with author and comedian Lorne Elliott. \$25 in advance.

Buddy Wasisname and The Other Fellas

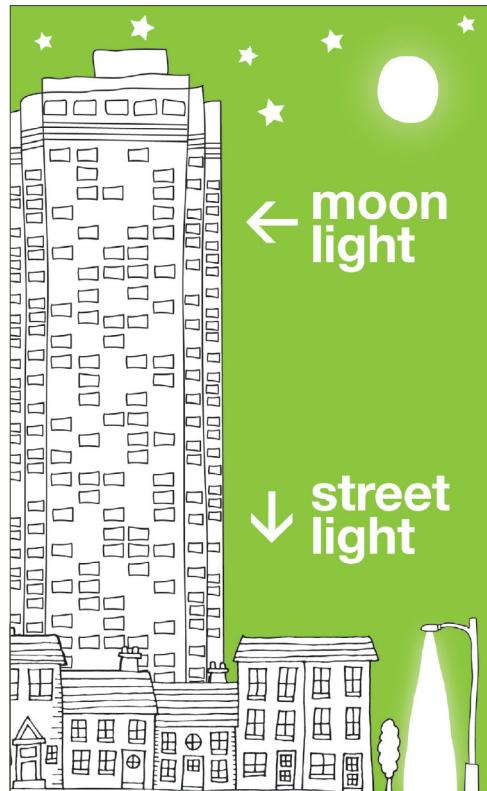
When: Fri. and Sat., 8 p.m.

Where: Rebecca Cohn

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$27 for students and seniors and \$20 for children 12-and-under.

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Metro's 7th Heaven: Metro taps what's hot right now

1 Assassin's Creed II

GAME Immerse yourself in Renaissance-era Italy for some art — the art of killing, that is. But one of the biggest attractions of the game are characters based on historical figures such as Leonardo da Vinci.

2 New Moon

FILM For those who get dizzy at the sight of vampires and werewolves, opening day of the Twilight sequel is Christmas, New Year's Eve and Valentine's Day rolled into one.

3 Sarah Palin

CELEBRITY The former Alaska governor's latest headline-magnet is her memoir *Going Rogue* (released Tuesday) has been sitting atop book charts for several months already, with Americans lining up around the block at her book readings.

4 Kindle

GADGET It's here. Finally. This week, Amazon.com announced that the popular e-book reader is now available in Canada.

5 Funny People

DVD The trouble with Judd Apatow's first box-office dud is that it's not very funny. That doesn't mean it's not good.

6 Songs 'N Smiles Sillytown

TOY Named the top battery-operated toy for 2010 by the Canadian Toy Testing Council.

7 Jon and Kate Plus 8 series finale

TV Rejoice. The end is nigh. Come Monday, TLC will pull the plug.

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Entertainment

A powerful voice in the AIDS fight

Eurythmics singer Annie Lennox lends her support to help infected African kids

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

No woman does short hair or electropop better than Annie Lennox.

The Scottish singer has been an icon since shooting to fame with the Eurythmics two decades ago. The "Greatest White Soul Singer Alive" won a 2004 Academy Award for best original song.

Children's Rights

This year she released The Annie Lennox Collection. But these days, Lennox's heart belongs less to Billboard charts and more to dying children. She campaigns on behalf of African children infected with AIDS. She talked exclusively with Metro.

Q After more than two decades of awareness campaigns, why are so many African children dying of AIDS?

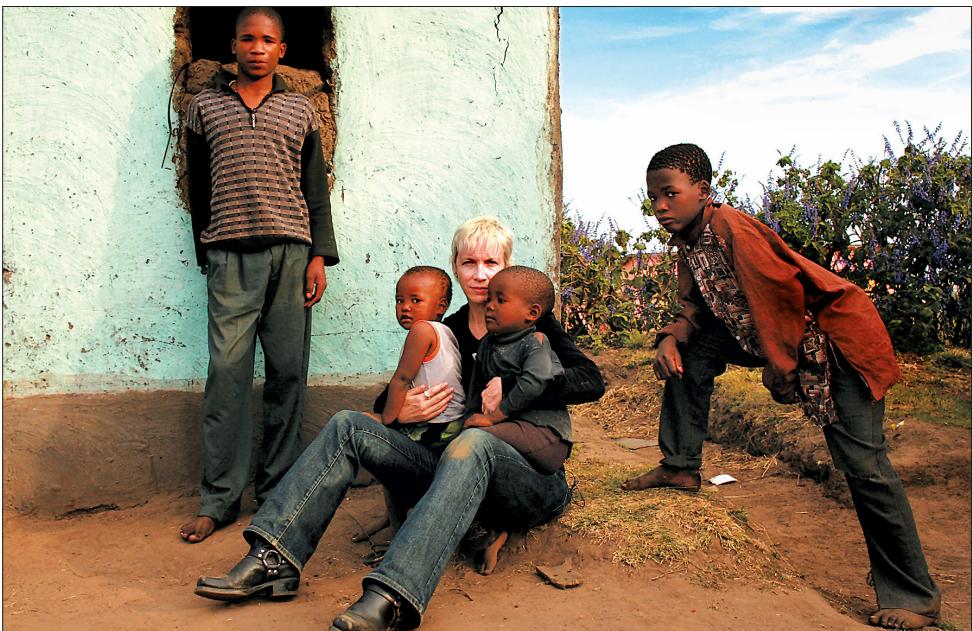
A If you have money, then you can always get access to medical care and treatment. But if you are poor it's a very different story, especially as health care systems in most African countries are completely inefficient and understaffed. On top of that, many people still don't really understand how people get infected by HIV.

Whose fault is it?

A Apart from warfare and natural disasters such as floods or droughts, very often chronic poverty has been caused by the fact that in the 20th and 21st century, leaders, governments and economic systems have not served the people well. Up till now, there has not been the necessary will to create essential change, so that when people are born into poverty, they're stuck there.

Q What's your reaction when South African politicians suggest AIDS can be cured with traditional medicines?

A During Tabo Mbeki's rule as president of South Africa, his health minister, Manto Tshabalala-Msimang, advocated that AIDS could be treated with vitamins, garlic, lemon juice, beetroot and olive oil. It's shocking to think that a person in such an important position could take a stand like this. Many African people often mistrust Western medicine, and in any case it's not available or affordable to them, so they go to traditional healers. I would like people to have the opportunity to access medicine if



Annie Lennox, pictured with children in Africa. The Eurythmics frontwoman is campaigning on behalf of those infected with AIDS.



Annie facts

- Name: Annie Lennox
- Age: 54
- Background: Member of the successful duo Eurythmics; subsequent solo career has earned her a Golden Globe and an Academy Award
- Family: Two teenage daughters
- In the news: Passionate advocate on behalf of AIDS-infected children in Africa.
- Website: annielennoxsing.com

they need it. It should be a personal decision, but many millions of people don't even have that option.

Q How did AIDS among children become your biggest passion?

A I performed for the

launch of Nelson Mandela's HIV/AIDS campaign in 2003, and afterward all the artists were invited to join him on Robben Island, where he had been imprisoned. Mandela described the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a "genocide" that was wiping out millions of lives, including women and children. That was the

point when I sat up and really paid attention. Because we live in a celebrity-fixated culture, the deaths of millions of people through AIDS rarely hits the headlines. ... I felt that it is something I couldn't walk away from.

Q What can children in other countries

do to help?

A I think the first step is to find out what HIV/AIDS is, how it's transmitted, and how it affects people's lives. That way you educate yourself and understand the difference between sharing a cup and sharing a needle!

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Save the Children
Canada

Dirty Dancing co-star still mourning Swayze

Jennifer Grey is still struggling with the death of Dirty Dancing co-star Patrick Swayze because she has only recently realised just how strong her feelings were for the actor/dancer, femalefirst.co.uk reports. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**



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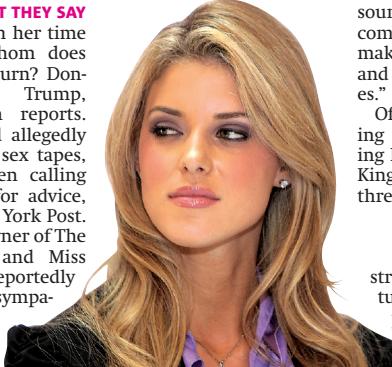
Celebrity Buzz

Trump offers Prejean some free advice

YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY

ABOUT KARMA In her time of crisis, to whom does Carrie Prejean turn? Donald Trump, usmagazine.com reports. De-crowned and allegedly tagged in eight sex tapes, Prejean has been calling up the mogul for advice, reports the New York Post.

Trump, the owner of The Miss Universe and Miss USA pageants reportedly isn't feeling too sympathetic. "Maybe," he told one Post



source, "she should become a major porn star, make millions of dollars, and give it to worthy causes."

Of Prejean's conduct during a Larry King Live taping last week — she called King "inappropriate" and threatened to walk off set — Trump told Access Hollywood. "I thought it was very strange and very sad, actually ... (Prejean) is a person who sometimes behave inap-

propriately. It's a very sad situation."

Through her lawyer, Prejean has refused to comment on the growing sex tape controversy. Prejean previously said that the first sex tape to show up was "the biggest mistake of my life."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Lohan pals beg for rehab return

BUT SHE SAID NO, NO, NO

Pals of Lindsay Lohan have been begging her to check into rehab for a fourth time, but the Mean Girls star isn't listening, according to OK! Magazine.

"She's been on a downward spiral for months," a source tells the magazine.

"We ask, we beg, but she won't listen."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Amy's leaky breasts?

MAKE THAT THREE LEAKY

BOOBS Amy Winehouse has been hospitalized again, but this time it has nothing to do with drugs. The singer was reportedly admitted to a London hospital earlier this week due to possible complications from her recent breast augmentation surgery.



METRO WORLD NEWS

"She's fine, she just had a little leaky something or other," her dad, Mitch Winehouse, said during his Web show, pointing to his chest. Meanwhile, a source says that Amy "saw something oozing out of her top."

Rihanna's walk on the Wilds side?

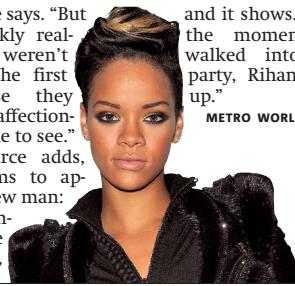
GO 'HEAD GIRL Rihanna may be dating again, as she was seen spending time with 90210 star Tristan Wilds at a party at her house in Los Angeles and then again at a club in London just two days later, according to Gatecrasher.

"No one knew why Tristan was there initially, because it was not an industry party. It was very inti-

mate," a source says. "But everyone quickly realized they weren't meeting for the first time, because they were openly affectionate for everyone to see." And, the source adds, everyone seems to approve of the new man: "He's a real gentleman. She likes him a lot,

and it shows. From the moment he walked into her party, Rihanna lit up."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Beckham's tan 'all natural' she claims

PISH POSH Victoria Beckham insists she doesn't use fake tan, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer-turned designer — who is rarely seen without bronzed skin — says her colour is due to living in sunny Los Angeles.

She said: "I don't self-tan anymore; it's frustrating when people criticize my colour. It's the colour that I am! I wear sunblock, but I live in a hot climate."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Hills star Patridge has 'Gleeful' evening

YAWN, OH, SORRY, WHAT DID YOU SAY?

The Hills are alive with the sound of Glee? At Thursday's Us Weekly Hot Hollywood party at L.A. hotspot Voyeur, Audrina Patridge only had eyes for a brand-new bad boy: Mark Salling, the mohawk-sporting hunk from FOX's new hit show Glee, the magazine reports.

The Hills' Patridge, 24, and Salling, 27, were joined at the hip for their entire time at the

shindig. Sitting at a shared table, the pair spent 45 minutes talking into one another's ear and laughing.

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Pitt turned down \$5M to trick-or-treat

FAMILY MAN Brad Pitt was a no-show at a public appearance in the United Arab Emirates on Oct. 31, declining the offer of a \$5 million US appearance fee in order to spend the day trick-or-treating with Angelina Jolie and their six kids, sources say.

METRO WORLD NEWS

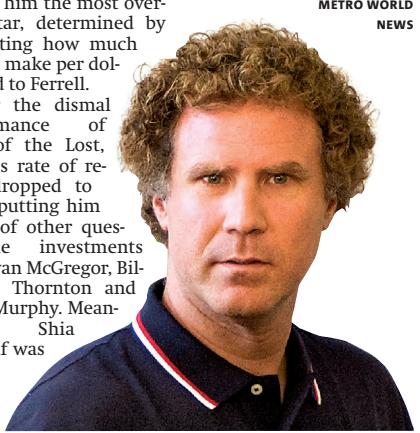


Ferrell 'Most Overpaid': Forbes

NOT SO FUNNY Will Ferrell finds himself at the top of a new Forbes celebrity list, but it isn't exactly an honour. The magazine has named him the most overpaid star, determined by calculating how much studios make per dollar paid to Ferrell.

After the dismal performance of Land of the Lost, Ferrell's rate of return dropped to \$3.29, putting him ahead of other questionable investments like Ewan McGregor, Billy Bob Thornton and Eddie Murphy. Meanwhile, Shia LaBeouf was

METRO WORLD NEWS



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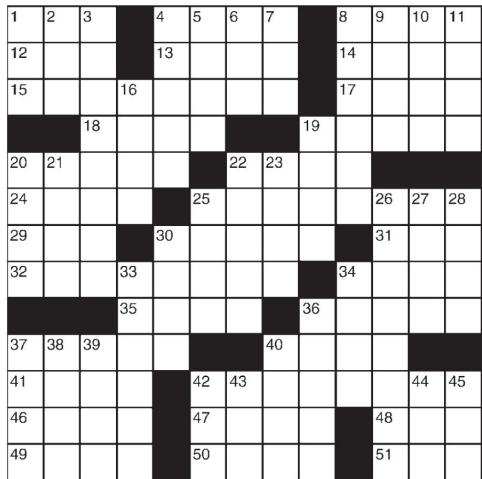
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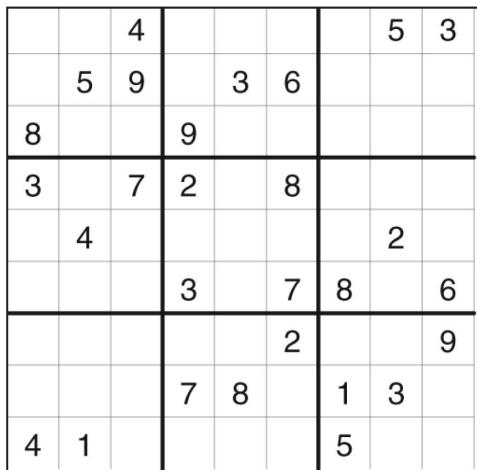
Take Five

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.



ACROSS

1 Pouch
4 Burn somewhat
8 Leading man?
12 Id partner
13 Wild and crazy
14 Prom-goers' car
15 Chevy model
17 Deck in the ring
18 "The Amazing —"
19 Poolroom supply
20 Mrs. Archie Bunker
22 Brat's stocking stuffer
24 Disencumbers
25 Napoleon, by birth
29 Altar affirmative
30 Sudden voltage increase
31 Inseparable
32 Fabric with ribs
34 Scraps
35 Help a hood
36 Cocktail ingre-

dients?
37 Pieces of eight?
40 Existed
41 Hide in the shadows
42 Worn away
46 Brutus' being
47 Vicinity
48 GIs' entertainers
49 Campus bigwig
50 Kitten's comment
51 Gas gauge fig.

DOWN

1 Moment
2 In olden days
3 Hall
4 Prague citizen
5 Loathe
6 Pismire
7 "Catcher in the —"
8 Acid neutralizer
9 Use an old phone
10 — nitrate
11 Cattle calls?
16 Cisterns
19 Contemptible

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

M	A	S	B	I	O	C	A	S	H
O	S	L	O	R	R	A	L	E	E
R	E	A	S	A	L	S	A	L	I
N	A	V	A	J	O	A	A	R	E
A	M	I	N	G	O	V	E	R	R
D	O	P	E	Y	O	D	E	R	A
A	L	A	S	T	W	T	R	I	G
N	I	L	A	H	A	S	H	A	N
G	O	I	N	G	U	N	D	E	R
D	Y	O	O	N	T	A	M	O	I
A	Y	E	T	C	I	C	E	S	E
B	U	Y	S	R	O	E	N	E	X

6	7	2	8	4	9	1	5	3
3	1	4	6	5	2	7	9	8
9	5	8	1	7	3	2	4	6
4	2	7	5	8	1	6	3	9
5	3	6	9	2	7	4	8	1
8	9	1	4	3	6	5	7	2
2	4	5	3	6	8	9	1	7
1	6	3	7	9	5	8	2	4
7	8	9	2	1	4	3	6	5

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.caHoroscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.comFor Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES

MARCH 21-APRIL 20



TAURUS

APRIL 21-MAY 21



Someone will come to you for advice about a personal issue today and although you don't want to get involved you feel obliged to help them out.

LIBRA

SEPT 23-OCT 23



Try not to take it personally if a friend or colleague is critical of your efforts. They are not really angry at you — they are angry at the world.

SCORPIO

OCT 24-NOV 22



No doubt you are desperate to be doing something more exciting but don't be so impatient for change that you start a task that is clearly going to be difficult.

GEMINI

MAY 22-JUNE 21



Honesty is a must if you are to resolve an issue that has been dragging on for weeks. That means being honest with others and yourself.

SAGITTARIUS

NOV 23-DEC 21



You may have been extra cautious in recent weeks but as from today you can start being a bit more adventurous — but only a bit.

CANCER

JUNE 22-JULY 22



You tend to believe only what you can see with your own eyes, but today you might wonder if there are things going on in the background.

CAPRICORN

DEC 22-JAN 20



You need to be passionate about what you are doing, especially at work where you appear to have slipped into an easy routine.

LEO

JULY 23-AUG 23



No matter how many great ideas you may have they won't mean a thing unless and until you do something with them.

AQUARIUS

JAN 21-FEB 18



The planets in their wisdom say it is time to move on and deep down you know they are right.

VIRGO

AUG 24-SEPT 22



In the greater scheme of things there is no such thing as luck, and if you keep that thought in mind you will rediscover the drive that has been lacking.

PISCES

FEB 19-MARCH 20



You will be on the go from dawn to dusk today, and when the stars come out tonight that's when you will really speed up.

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This day in history

1969: Vietnam War: The Cleveland Plain Dealer publishes explicit photographs of dead villagers from the My Lai massacre in Vietnam.

1974: The United States Department of Justice files its final anti-trust suit against AT&T. This suit later leads to the break up of AT&T and its Bell System.

1975: Francisco Franco, Caudillo of Spain, dies after 36 years in power.

1989: Velvet Revolution: The number of protesters assembled in Prague, Czechoslovakia swells from 200,000 the day before to an estimated half-million.

For more delicious Metro recipes, visit: metronews.ca/food

Take Five

Peanut Butter Shortbread Bars**INGREDIENTS:****SHORTBREAD**

250 ml (1 cup) unsalted butter, softened
 250 ml (1 cup) granulated sugar
 1 egg yolk
 2 ml (1/2 tsp) vanilla extract (optional)
 500 ml (2 cups) all-purpose flour
 5 ml (1 tsp) baking powder
 1 ml (1/4 tsp) salt

FILLING

125 ml (1/2 cup) smooth peanut butter
 125 ml (1/2 cup) icing sugar
 30 ml (2 tbsp) unsalted butter, softened
 175 ml (3/4 cup) blueberry jam (or grape jelly or strawberry jam for a different flavour)

METHOD:

- In a large bowl, beat butter with sugar and egg yolk using an electric mixer for 2 minutes until light and fluffy. In a separate bowl, blend together flour, baking powder and salt until well combined.
- Divide dough into two equal portions and wrap

Metro Recipes of the Day

Perfect for the kids in winter, peanut butter shortbread bars are seen on left with the Mocha Tortoni Mousse on right.

tightly in plastic wrap. Freeze dough for 1 to 4 hours.

- Preheat oven to 180 C (350 F). Line a 3-l (9-by-13-inch) baking dish with parchment paper; set aside.
- Remove dough from freezer. Shred dough using a coarse grater or food processor fitted with a metal shredding blade; return one portion of shred-

ded dough to the freezer.

- Arrange remaining dough in an even layer in the prepared baking dish; lightly pat dough down. Bake for 20 minutes or until lightly golden around edges; let cool for 20 minutes.
- Meanwhile, blend peanut butter with icing sugar and butter until smooth and well combined. Spread peanut

butter mixture over shortbread base in an even layer. Drop spoonfuls of jam over peanut butter and gently spread in an even layer.

- Remove remaining dough from freezer and scatter over jam layer. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until the top is set and lightly golden brown. Transfer pan to a wire rack and cool completely;

cut into bars.

MAKES 24 BARS.

Mocha Tortoni Mousse**INGREDIENTS:**

2 large egg whites
 30 ml (2 tbsp) instant coffee
 Pinch salt
 50 ml (1/4 cup) sugar
 500 ml (2 cups) whipping cream

10 ml (2 tsp) vanilla
 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar
 50 ml (1/4 cup) slivered almonds, toasted and cooled, plus extra for garnish

60 g (2 oz) bittersweet chocolate, grated

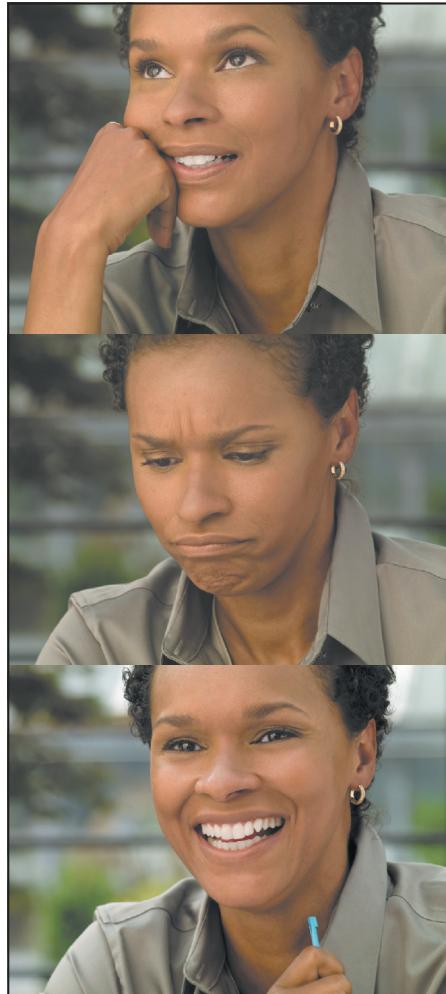
TO ROAST NUTS: Roast in a single layer on a baking sheet in a 180 C (350 F) oven for about 10 minutes. Allow them to get light brown, remove and cool.

METHOD:

- In a clean medium bowl, beat egg whites until foamy. Add instant coffee and salt and beat until combined. Gradually add 50 ml (1/4 cup) sugar and beat until soft peaks form.
- In a separate bowl, whip cream until soft peaks form. Beat in vanilla and 125 ml (1/2 cup) sugar. Fold in 50 ml (1/4 cup) slivered almonds and transfer to a large glass bowl or individual glasses and freeze at least 2 hours.
- Garnish with remaining slivered almonds and grated chocolate.

MAKES 8 TO 10 SERVINGS.

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Alcohol Reference
Mild Violence

LEVELS

